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CONTENTS.

Epitome of the Week, &c.	213
Leading Articles:—	
Italy's Demands on China	214
The Governor and Questions in Council	214
The United States and the Philippines	215
Why Englishmen are disliked	215
Lights on Private Chairs	216
Hongkong Legislative Council	216
Supreme Court	219
Settlement Extension at Shanghai	220
Delimitation of the Kowloon Frontier	220
The War in the Philippines	220
The Messing of the Royal Welch Fusiliers	221
Hongkong Sanitary Board	221
Reconstruction of the Sanitary Board	223
Daring Robbery in Glenealy	223
Colonelcy of the Volunteer Corps	223
The Fire Brigade Report	223
Water Return	224
The National Bank of China, Limited	224
The China Fire Insurance Co., Limited	224
Hongkong Hotel Co., Limited	225
The Punjom Mining Co., Limited	225
The Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Co., Limited	226
China and Manila Steamship Co., Limited	227
Geo. Fenwick & Co., Limited	227
China Sugar Refining Co., Limited	227
Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Limited	228
The Green Island Cement Co., Limited	228
Olivers Freehold Mines, Limited	228
The Yab Loong Cotton Spinning Co., Limited	229
The Football Challenge Shield	229
The Royal Hongkong Golf Club	229
Shooting	30
Correspondence	30
The Martyrdom of Father Victorin	230
The Foreign Trade of China	230
Land Navigation Rules	31
Peking	31
North Formosa	32
Hongkong and Port News	22
Commercial	233
Shipping	236

MARRIAGES.

On the 13th March, 1899, at St. Peter's Church, by the Rev. J. H. France, M.A., REGINALD DOWSETT THOMAS, eldest son of William THOMAS, Esq., West Kensington Park, London, W., to EDITH MAY, eldest daughter of Mrs. Charles H. ACKERS, Government Civil Hospital, Hongkong.

On the 14th March, at St. John's Cathedral, Hongkong, by the Right Rev. the Bishop of Victoria, LAWRENCE, son of Thomas GIBBS, Wirksworth, to CATHERINE, daughter of the late John McIntosh, Stirling.

DEATHS.

At Chungking, suddenly, on the 25th February, LEO, son of Major-General TUCKER, C.B.

At No. 7, Broadway, Shanghai, on the 3rd March, 1899, PIERRE PIRY, aged 61 years.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The American mail of the 11th February arrived, per O. & O. steamer *Coptic*, on the 11th March (28 days); the French mail of the 10th February arrived, per M. M. steamer *Yarra*, on the 14th March (32 days); and the English mail of the 17th February arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Bengal*, on the 17th March (28 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK

A Shimonoseki press despatch of the 5th March states that the coal coolies at Moji have gone on strike in opposition to a reduction of wages.

Sons of Admiral Lang, formerly of the Chinese Navy, and of Mr. Pelham Warren, British Consul at Hankow, have lately joined the I. M. Customs.—*N. C. Daily News*.

A Peking telegram of the 5th March published in the Japanese papers states that the German authorities have arranged to organise a Chinese force for the defence of Kiaochau.

Baron von Heyking, German Minister to Peking, is going home on six months' leave of absence. He intends to leave this month and will probably resume duty early in September.

The U.S.S. *Zafiro* arrived at Shanghai on the 9th March from Manila, having made the run in 4 days 9 hours, and now awaits the bodyguard of the U.S. Legation at Peking. She has brought Capt. Singer of the U.S.S. *Manila*, who is on leave, and Drs. Steele and Stoughton, the former of whom is going home, and the latter is appointed to the *Monocacy*, also 28 men for the same vessel.

Mr. Rouffart has returned from accompanying H.E. Li Hung-chang in his inspection of the Yellow River. In M. Rouffart's opinion the control of the river is perfectly feasible, but it would require at the outset the provision of a sum of not less than fifty million taels. At present the Chinese are doing nothing or worse than nothing, and very little of the money granted by Peking for the regulation of the river is used for that purpose, and none of it is profitably used.—*N. C. Daily News*.

In the report of the Tanjong Pagar Dock Co. (Singapore) for the last half-year it is stated that proposals have been made to the Lords of the Admiralty for the construction of a large Naval Dock on the Company's property. One of the suggested sites has received favourable consideration, but the Admiralty have not yet announced their decision. The Directors have concluded the purchase of a portion of land adjacent to the Company's property and near to the proposed site of the Admiralty Dock.

Mr. Leo Tucker, news of whose sudden death at Chungking on the 25th ult. has reached us, was the business man of the survey party with Lieut. Pottinger. He came down to Chungking on the 24th ult. from up country, suffering from inflammation of the lungs, but it was not thought that he was seriously ill. Mr. Litton, H.B.M.'s Consul, saw him at 3 p.m. on the 25th and he seemed to be going on all right, but ten minutes after the Consul left him, his heart stopped beating and he was dead. His age was only about 30, and by his geniality and kind-heartedness he had made himself a great favourite with all with whom he came in contact.—*N. C. Daily News*.

A Calcutta telegram of the 22nd February reads as follows:—Reliable news has reached Calcutta to the effect that the Chinese Government have at last definitely undertaken to put down the adulteration of Indian opium in the treaty ports, which was giving the Indian drug a bad name in China. It seems this adulteration was chiefly done in bond by retail dealers at Chinkiang and Wubu, so it is within the power of the Chinese authorities to put it down and it is hoped this will be the case. The matter has formed the subject of representations from the Bombay Trades Association and other bodies and is of considerable importance to the opium trade.

New York advices state that in the suit brought by the Bank of China and Japan, Limited, against W. H. Morse for calls due to the liquidator of the old Bank of China, Japan and the Straits, judgment has been given in the liquidator's favour, for the full amount claimed with costs. This overrules the judgment of the United States Consul-General at Shanghai, under which Americans have refused to pay the calls.

A very handsome wreath in oxidised silver intended for the *Iltis* memorial has arrived in Shanghai. This was dedicated, states *Der Ostasiatische Lloyd*, as a token of respect for the gallant men of the *Iltis* from the Russian Navy. Laurel and oaken leaves are wound as a garland and a long silver bow is attached to it with the following inscription: "The Pacific Squadron to the brave comrades who perished with the *Iltis*." This splendid gift, measuring about one yard in diameter, is now in the hands of the German Consul-General and it is proposed to hang it up in the German Church which is to be erected in Shanghai, as it cannot be fixed on the monument itself.

The *San Francisco Chronicle* says:—There is a good deal of nonsensical talk about humanity requiring us to keep possession of the Philippines. It is noteworthy, however, that it comes principally from those who advocate the wholesale slaughter of the Filipinos to teach them that the United States is not to be trifled with. If we retain the Philippines we will not do so because we are animated by humane motives, but because we believe it will pay us to keep them. But it will be impossible to convince any sensible person that we can make the proposition pay if we have to maintain a large standing army to keep the inhabitants of the islands in order.

Speaking of the opening of Nanningfu to foreign trade *Der Ostasiatische Lloyd* says:— "For the future of Nanning a proper connection with Pakhoi in the Gulf of Tonkin is a case of absolute necessity. France having ever interfered in this matter, as she is only too anxious to lead the whole trade of the southwestern provinces via Tonkin, has now seized the only railway concession in these provinces. The opening of Lungchow and Mengtze had been intended to lead the trade of Yunnan and Kwangsi in another direction and so also should the new railway from Nanning to Pakhoi. But it is doubtful if France ever will construct this railway. At present she is satisfied to hold the exclusive right over the only possible new line."

Insurance Companies are said to have had risks amounting to between a hundred-and-eighty and a hundred-and-ninety thousand dollars on property destroyed in the recent incendiary fires at Manila, but it is understood that the loss will not fall upon them, risks arising from war and civil disturbance being expressly excluded from the policies. The home Fire Companies sent out instructions to their Manila agents some time ago that under no conditions were risks of that character to be taken, but at the time the bombardment was impending merchants were able to effect insurances at Lloyds to cover their property on shore. Of our two local Fire Companies the Hongkong was not interested in the property destroyed in the recent fires and the China only had one moderate risk.

ITALY'S DEMANDS ON CHINA.

(Daily Press, 17th March.)

The attempt by Italy to obtain a foothold in China is meeting with more opposition than at first seemed probable. The demand made by the Italian Minister at Peking for the lease of Sanmun Bay, on the coast of Chekiang, was not well received at the outset, in spite of the complaisance with which the British Government were disposed to view it. Mr. BRODRICK, the Under Secretary of State, in the course of a discussion on the question in the House of Commons on the 12th inst., said that if Italy can secure the concession by diplomacy Great Britain would welcome her appearance in China. Great Britain, he added in effect, had no desire to act the part of the dog in the manger, and while safeguarding her own interests she was willing to support Italy diplomatically. It would seem, however, that there is some doubt as to the attitude of some of the other Powers. It was stated in telegrams from Peking that France privately apprised the Chinese Government a few days previous to the event that Italy intended to make such a demand with the consent of Great Britain. Later it was stated in telegraphic advices to a Kobe contemporary that the French Minister at Peking had directly advised the Chinese Government to decline the demands of Italy. According to Reuter, however, in a telegram dated the 8th inst., it was positively denied in Paris that the French Minister had advised the Taungli Yamen to reject the Italian demands for a concession in Sanmun Bay and stated that, on the contrary, France approved of those demands. It is doubtful, however, we think, whether the Italian project has found much favour in Tokyo, possibly on account of the vicinity of the proposed station to the island of Formosa. Should the Italians succeed in establishing a settlement at Sanmun, it is not improbable the Japanese would formulate a demand for a coaling station in the province of Fokien, and in such event it is understood no opposition would be met. The demand by the British Government. What attitude Russia and Germany have assumed towards Italy in this question is so far apparently unknown, but it would rather appear from the stand taken up by the Peking Government as though they had some support from outside in the matter.

However that may be, it is perfectly obvious that the Chinese Government do not intend to make any concession to Italy without very strong protest. Indeed, their action has all through been most uncompromising on the subject. They appear to have at once and without qualification absolutely declined to accede to the demands of the Italian Minister, refusing to even discuss such an idea. How far they were influenced by the report that Austria was about to make a similar request is not known, but it is very probable that the prospect of several more concessions being demanded and a regular chain of foreign settlements being established all along her seaboard has stiffened the Chinese Government into a determination to grant no more leases of territory to European Powers. If Italy and Austria, why not Holland, Belgium, and the United States, they may ask, and be resolved to draw the line at once. But now that Italy has made the demand she has committed herself to a forward policy in China, and it is far easier to set the ball rolling than to regulate its progress. The Italian

Government have so far resolved to put through this scheme that they have ordered out an expedition of six warships to China under Admiral GRENET. The gallant officer was to sail in the cruiser *Stromboli* from Venice in a few days from the 8th inst. These vessels with the cruiser *Elba*, now on the China station, will constitute a force that the Chinese at any rate would be unable to effectively oppose. Meantime, however, the Chinese Government are announced to have instructed His Excellency LUI KUN-YI and other Chinese officials in the Central provinces to make preparations to resist any attempt by the Italians to effect a landing at Sanmun Bay. The Austro-Hungarian Government is further reported to have demanded the lease of a locality in China, and that the demand is being supported by Russia and other Powers. Of course there is much speculation in all these reports, but the broad fact at any rate remains that Italy desires a lease of Sanmun Bay, in Chekiang, and that China strongly objects and flatly refuses to concede it. The Peking Authorities, with their customary want of tact, seem to have made the occasion one for trying to administer a new snub to foreigners generally. They are credited with having applied to the Russian Minister to assist in procuring the withdrawal of the troops and marines of the various Powers now retained in Peking for the protection of the Legations. Having regard to the disturbed condition of Peking and of many parts of China, this would seem peculiarly ill timed, and it is not likely that the foreign Ministers will listen to such a proposal, even if recommended by the Russian Minister, which can hardly be expected.

It is, however, most improbable that the Italian demand will bring about any serious disturbance of the peace. The Italian Government clearly never had any such intention, for they have already recalled Signor MARTINO, their Representative at Peking, for issuing a second note which smacked too much of an ultimatum. Italy desires a port in China, but she does not wish to cause any breach of the peace in securing it. Negotiations will therefore no doubt proceed when the Chinese blood has cooled down, and no doubt the demand will receive influential support from most of the Treaty Powers. The Chinese Government is still squeezable, so long as the Powers are not split up into opposing forces, and it now seems inevitable that the civilised nations of the West will soon be pressing hard on China in all directions. How under such circumstances a steady and defined policy can be maintained by the Foreign Ministers at Peking it is difficult to understand; the ever changing conditions will necessitate a frequent modification of attitude towards the Chinese mandarins. The latter have shown recently that, whatever changes and reforms may be instituted, they have learned practically nothing and have forgotten none of their ancient prejudices against the foreigner. They are, and will remain impossible, and yet the march of progress must roll on and include this most conservative of countries in its course.

The American transport *Grant*, Capt. Arey, arrived at Singapore from New York on the 4th March and left for Manila on the 5th, after coaling. She had on board 106 passengers, including General Lawton, and 1,713 troops for Manila.

The accounts of the Taku Tug and Lighter Co., Limited, for 1898 show a net amount of \$61,084 available for distribution. The Directors propose to pay a final dividend of 6 per cent., making 10 per cent. for the year, besides which a bonus of 14 per cent. from the profit on the Sultan has been paid.

THE GOVERNOR AND QUESTIONS IN COUNCIL.

(Daily Press, 15th March.)

People are beginning to ask what manner of man the Governor is. His Excellency has been with us four months, and the community know as much, or as little, of his individuality now as they did the day he landed. He came with a high reputation, and expectations were entertained that the colony was about to enjoy the advantage of having a strong Governor. So far, however, we have had no evidence of strength, and the proceedings at the last Council meeting are calculated to engender suspicions of weakness. Although the answers given to the various questions that were put bear the impress of the Colonial Secretary, the actual responsibility for them rests upon the Governor, and it is a matter for astonishment that His Excellency should have allowed replies of such a character to be returned, replies evidently drafted with the intention of insulting the intelligence of the community in general and in particular that of the hon. members who asked the questions. The friction that has prevailed in the past between the official and unofficial elements has left in the minds of some of the officials a good deal of bitterness, which is always ready to vent itself at any opportunity, but that His Excellency, new to the colony and having no interest in the quarrels of the past, should sanction a continuance of the acrimony is not calculated to win the approbation of the community. Possibly probably indeed, His Excellency gave no attention to the drafting of the replies given by the Colonial Secretary on Monday, but it was his duty to give such attention.

Take the questions asked by the Hon. E. R. BELLIOS with reference to the Jubilee Road. The first question recited that the funds for the Jubilee Road "are now lying in the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank untouched though nearly two years have elapsed since their subscription," and the second question was, "Will the Government be good enough to state when it is proposed to commence work on the first section of the Jubilee Road?" The reply was that "The work will be commenced as soon as the money subscribed is available." Well, the money subscribed is available at any time, or at least the public have been under that impression. If any hitch has occurred the Government might well have given some explanation of how it has arisen. Has the Government ever notified the trustees of the fund that it is ready to commence the work and made application for the money? In dealing with a fund subscribed by the public in honour of Her Majesty clear and straightforward statements on the part of the Government might reasonably be expected. If a deadlock has arisen as to which section of the road shall be constructed first it would have been a simple matter to say so, and the public are entitled to the information.

The most surprising of the answers, however, was that given to the question put by the Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD with reference to the slaughter-houses. The hon. gentleman asked:—"Will the Government inform the Council on what grounds it has refused to put an end to the farming out of the slaughter-houses to a Chinese contractor as recommended by the Sanitary Board in their resolution of 2nd February last, which reads:—That the Board recommend the Government to transfer the management and control of

"the slaughter-houses to the Sanitary Board upon the expiration of the present lease to the farmer." To this the reply given was that: "The Government does not consider it advisable at present to make any alteration in the management of the slaughter-houses." Mr. WHITEHEAD's question called for a statement of the grounds of the Government's refusal to put an end to the farming system, and the Government returns a woman's answer that it won't because it won't. The arguments against the continuance of the present system were fully set out at the meeting of the Sanitary Board held on the 2nd February and the case appears full and complete. Had any answer been possible it is to be assumed that it would have been given in reply to Mr. WHITEHEAD's question on Monday. Being unable to give an answer the Government makes an attempt to evade the question by a mere expression of opinion that the course recommended by the Sanitary Board is inadvisable. No reason can be assigned for the inadvisability, at least no reason that can be publicly avowed. *Prima facie* an honest administration of the slaughter-houses by the Sanitary Board must necessarily be more advisable than the continuance of a farming system that has been proved to be attended with grave abuses, and when the Government expresses its preference for the latter but is unable to state its reasons we are driven to the unwelcome conclusion that the reasons are such as will not bear the light of day. Our own surmise as to those reasons is that they are connected with the jealousy the Government entertains towards the Sanitary Board and that rather than give any additional powers to that body the Government elects to let the food supply of the colony suffer. An alteration in the management of the slaughter-houses would certainly be advisable in the public interests, but it may not be advisable in the political interests of the party that wishes to disestablish the Sanitary Board altogether. It is only in that sense that the answer given to Mr. WHITEHEAD's question can be said to have any true ring about it.

From the replies given to the other questions of Mr. WHITEHEAD it will have been learned with some surprise that the Governor has received no instructions to deal with the reconstitution of the Sanitary Board. Possibly, however, His Excellency may have been asked by the Secretary of State to make a report on the subject. If so we hope His Excellency will endeavour to arrive at an impartial and independent opinion and that he will not favour the undivided responsibility advocated by Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON, which is a mere euphemism for official irresponsibility.

THE UNITED STATES AND THE PHILIPPINES.

(Daily Press, 11th March.)

The fact that the United States Senate has refused to sanction any permanent increase to the United States Army would seem to indicate that the policy of colonial expansion is not regarded with favour. In the telegram reprinted in yesterday's issue from the *Manila Times* we are told that the Army Bill as passed by the Senate provides that the army is only to be increased to 46,000, instead of 100,000, and even this increase is only for a short while; in July, 1901, the army is to be reduced to 27,000, the figure at which it stood before the war with Spain. The Bill as thus amended will have to be sent back to the House of Representatives, and possibly it may be some time before a final settlement is arrived

at, but in the meantime the action of the Senate may be taken as indicative of a strong feeling in the country against a policy of foreign conquest. The pursuit of such a policy would necessitate the maintenance of a large standing army, whereas the Senate is of opinion that the military forces should within a brief period be again reduced to the small figure of 27,000. It would take an army of larger dimensions than that to permanently hold the Philippines, and it would appear, therefore, that the Senate does not favour the forcible imposition of American rule on the inhabitants of those islands.

One of the reasons urged in favour of the United States subjugating the Philippines and establishing American sovereignty is that if the islands were left under native administration they would fall a prey to some grasping European Power. Seeing how hard a task the United States are finding the conquest the danger of any other Power attempting to take the islands must now be considered more remote than the world has been hitherto inclined to regard it. The Americans have a large army in the field, but neither at Manila nor at Iloilo do they find it prudent to advance far beyond the range of the guns of the men-of-war, and this although the Filipinos have practically no artillery and their supply of rifles is limited. The native army as it exists to-day, although labouring under disadvantages as regards the obtaining of supplies and opportunities of scientific training, is in fact a passably efficient fighting machine, and if the free import of warlike material were permitted it would not be long before it ranked with the army of Japan in point of quality, though probably not of numbers, for Japan has a population three or four times as great as the Philippines. It would also not be long before a navy was brought into existence. No foreign Power would find the conquest of the islands a very easy task therefore, even if the forces of the United States were withdrawn altogether. The Filipinos, however, are, it is understood, ready to accept an American protectorate, and if foreign aggression is the principal thing to be guarded against that could very well be done by means of the fleet, since any attacking force would necessarily have to approach by sea.

As to the capacity of the Filipinos for self-government, the experience gained during the past twelve months is reassuring. General WHITTIER, who went to Manila with General MERRITT and served there as Collector until the end of October, in a recent newspaper interview said:—"There is a wide ignorance of the wealth of the Philippines and the character of the Filipinos. The natives are not ignorant; they are not savages. They are adept at manufactures and as accountants, mariners, and railroad operatives. They are quiet, most temperate, and have shown great ability in their military affairs." The General might have added that they have also shown great ability in their civil affairs, for during the critical period through which the country has been passing there has never been any approach to anarchy, the Spaniards who have been taken prisoner have been treated with humanity, and the conduct of the native administration generally has been such as to earn the respect of the foreign residents in the country. There is no reason to anticipate that the Filipinos if granted autonomy would not prove themselves as capable of self-government as the South American Republics, and

perhaps even more capable than most of them. Their subjugation by the United States is certainly not called for on any grounds of humanity, and as to commercial considerations the probability is that the natives would work for the development of their country as energetically and as intelligently as the Japanese have done for the development of Japan. If the world is not prepared to take the native Government altogether on trust, however, the establishment of an American protectorate would afford an ample guarantee against any possible excesses. From the point of view of international politics, the establishment of a second Japan in the Far East is not an undesirable thing, for it would help to maintain the balance of power and to check the policy of selfish aggrandisement favoured by some of the Powers.

WHY ENGLISHMEN ARE DISLIKED

(Daily Press, 16th March.)

In connection with the lectures recently delivered by Colonel ELSDALE and Mr. FRANCIS on the strength and weakness of the empire the question has been raised: why do other nations dislike the English? Colonel ELSDALE tells us it is because we are the most vulgar people in the world, while Mr. FRANCIS assures us that we are not more vulgar than others and that it is our arrogance and national self-complacency, not our vulgarity, that excite the hatred of other nations. Mr. FRANCIS comes nearer the mark, we think, than Colonel ELSDALE, but there is a reason not mentioned by either of them that is perhaps the most potent cause of the feeling alluded to. Other nations think we are hypocritical humbugs, always making a parade of our religion and philanthropy and always taking care that our assumed virtues bring us solid worldly advantages. The feeling of the Continental nations towards England resembles in kind that entertained by the Royalists for the Puritans in the time of our civil disturbances, and Englishmen in turn credit the Continental nations with the levity and want of principle that the Puritans were accustomed to ascribe to the Royalists. The latter were not all roystering libertines nor were the Puritans all hypocrites, but the antagonistic characteristics of the two parties caused them to paint each other in the blackest colours, though from opposite points of view.

The feeling with which England is regarded by our friends across the channel is no new thing. One of our Tonkin contemporaries the other day quoted the following passage from the "Memoires de Sully":—"It is certain that the English hate us, and with a hatred so strong and so widespread that one would almost be inclined to class it amongst the natural instincts of the people, but it is rather the result of their pride and presumption, for there are no people in Europe more haughty, more disdainful, more intoxicated with the idea of their own excellence. In their own view understanding and reason are to be found only amongst themselves; they adore all their own opinions and despise those of all other nations; and it never occurs to them to pay attention to others or to doubt themselves. For the rest, they harm themselves much more by this character than they harm us; they are at the mercy of all their caprices. Surrounded by the sea, one might say they have contracted all its instability; everything changes with them according to their disposition at the moment and the only difference between them and the

"nations of Europe that are considered the most changeable is that with them change is not the effect of levity but of a vanity which ceaselessly reproduces itself in a thousand forms. Made slaves by their self-love to all their fancies, that which they think they have wisely arranged or firmly resolved comes to nothing, they not knowing how to support what is right in it. They are so little in agreement with themselves that at different times you would not take them for the same persons, and they appear surprised themselves sometimes to find themselves always in a state of irresolution. Examine what they call their state maxims and you will find only the laws of pride adopted in arrogance or idleness." *The Courier d'Haiphong* laconically adds "And it is three hundred years ago!" Three hundred years, and the Frenchman's opinion of the English remains much what it was in Sully's time except perhaps that today he might be inclined to dwell less upon our changeability and more upon our pride and assumption of superiority. We go to the Soudan professing to carry civilisation and commence by desecrating the Mahdi's tomb and mutilating the corpse. The character neither of a man nor of a nation is to be judged solely by his or its backslidings, but it must be confessed that England and Englishmen do often lay themselves open to the charge of hypocrisy.

Mere vulgarity other nations might ignore or condone; it is something more aggressive than mere vulgarity that makes them hate us. Besides, Colonel ELADALE told us that the vulgarity to which he referred was confined mainly to the lower classes, and as the lower classes are not much given to travelling on the Continent it is not from those classes that foreign nations derive their impressions of our national characteristics. If they think us vulgar, therefore, it must be because the upper and middle classes, who travel, convey an impression of vulgarity. It is not vulgarity in its ordinary sense, however, that hurts them, but a general affectation of superiority. We may take a local instance as an illustration. Major HENRY KNOLLYS, of the Royal Artillery, was appointed to Hongkong some eighteen or twenty years ago, and he afterwards published a book entitled "English Life in China," in which, on page 4, he says:—"Steer clear of the rank and file of the civilian community, inasmuch as they are not on the whole a favourable set either in their associates or in their ways of life." Further on we are told, after a reference to merchant princes and bankers, that Hongkong has "a small sprinkling of able administrators from the mother country, a larger proportion of Anglo-Chinese officials whose views scarcely range beyond the town of Victoria, and a number of clerks whose thoughts are engrossed with dollars, and who are seeking their fortunes, which probably will be ultimately swallowed up in drink, play, and rowdyism. There is, however, a corrective leaven in the shape of the military element, which represents by far the greater proportion of the educated and gentlemanlike stratum. As to the Hongkong women, born and bred there, the most charitable criticism is that their attractions are on a par with their scanty numbers, and that those with whom an English gentleman would care to exchange two words of conversation are *rari nantes in gurgite vasto*." The spirit which animates this "stand aside for I am holier than thou" gentleman, who rhapsodises on "the incomparably

"beautiful prayers of our simple service," is, it is to be feared, characteristic of many Englishmen abroad and accounts for much of the dislike with which they are viewed by the foreigners amongst whom they sojourn.

LIGHTS ON PRIVATE CHAIRS.

(Daily Press, 11th March.)

In an article in the *China Mail* on the compulsory carrying of lights by private chairs it is suggested that "in the enforcement of the rules we may well leave the police a certain amount of discretion." That is rather a dangerous policy to recommend. If the law is to be enforced at all it should be enforced consistently and impartially. The value of police discretion in such matters may be gauged from their action with regard to the Chinese light and pass law, now happily repealed. Every now and then a raid would be made on persons found out after hours without a light; thereafter the law would be fairly well observed for a time, but gradually slackness would again creep in and increase in proportion as immunity from arrest was enjoyed, until it became the exception rather than the rule for lights to be carried, and then the police would make another descent and arrest some scores of perfectly honest and respectable people, a considerable proportion of whom, in default of the payment of fines, would have to spend a few days as criminals in the gaol. The administration of that law was a scandal upon British justice and on more than one occasion called for the active interference of the head of the executive. If H.E. the Governor could spare the time to look over the records in connection with this subject to be found in the Colonial Secretary's Office he would be able to draw his own deductions as to "how not to do it." If the law is to be determined by the discretion of the police no one will ever know from day to day what is required of him. Changes in the administration of the Force are not infrequent, owing to leave of absence, promotion, and so forth, and the discretion of each Captain Superintendent will probably vary from that of his predecessor.

There does not as yet seem to be any very strong popular opposition to the new law, because looked at in advance the carrying of a light seems but a small matter to make a fuss about, but when the fines begin to be imposed and people are being continually haled up to the Police Court because their coolies have forgotten the lamp, or neglected to trim it, discontent will begin to manifest itself and suspicions of favouritism to arise, for in the nature of things the law will necessarily be frequently infringed by high officials and their wives as well as others, and it is not to be supposed that the former will be summoned. If the law is to be enforced, however, as has been decreed, it might make matters run more smoothly if some standard lamp were officially recognised and recommended for adoption. The most useful class of lights for the purpose intended—in so far as the purpose can be said to carry with it any element of utility—are the lights carried by the public chairs. Some persons, however, may be inclined to think that if they have to carry lights they had better carry good ones, and may adopt lamps varying in brilliancy with the electric search light. Lights of that description would be a danger as well as a nuisance, for, dazzling the eyes of persons meeting them, they would cause confusion as to the sur-

rounding traffic. When the Steam Launch Company was running a ferry service to Kowloon and being frequently involved in loss by collisions with sampans at night a suggestion was made that the launches should carry lights at the bows similar to those carried by the tram cars to light the track. The Harbour Master, however, promptly vetoed that idea, on the ground that lamps of that description would constitute a danger to the traffic in the harbour. The same principle applies, though perhaps not quite so forcibly, to the land traffic. If not an actual danger lights of extraordinary brilliancy would be at least unpleasant for the general public.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

On 13th March a meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held in the Council Chamber at the Government Offices, there being present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR, Sir HENRY BLAKE, G.C.M.G.
HIS EXCELLENCY Major-General GASCOIGNE, C.M.G. (Officer Commanding the Troops).
Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART (Colonial Secretary).
Hon. H. E. POLLOCK (Acting Attorney-General).
Hon. R. MURRAY RUMSEY (Harbour Master).
Hon. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Captain Superintendent of Police).
Hon. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).
Hon. R. D. ORMSBY (Director of Public Works).
Hon. C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.
Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD.
Hon. Dr. HO KAI.
Hon. E. R. BELILIOS, C.M.G.
Hon. J. J. BELL-IRVING.
Hon. WEI A YUK.
Mr. I. G. T. BUCKLE (Clerk of Councils).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted as a correct record.

PAPER.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the report of the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade for 1898.

THE GOVERNOR'S PEAK RESIDENCE.—AN EXPLANATION BY THE HON. E. R. BELILIOS.

A COMPLAINT FROM HON. T. H. WHITEHEAD. The COLONIAL SECRETARY submitted the report of the Finance Committee (No. 2) and moved its adoption.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded.

The Hon. E. R. BELILIOS.—At the last meeting of the Finance Committee, when the grant of \$3,500 for the erection of a temporary bungalow at "The Cliffs," for the accommodation of your Excellency's staff, was proposed, I voted against it. I desire now to explain a course that at first sight might indicate a want of consideration for your comfort. As a matter of fact, the contrary is the case, as I hope to be able to show you. So far back as the 19th June, 1893, I advocated the erection of a palace at the Peak for the use of the Governor.—(hear, hear)—and on the 17th July following I moved a resolution to that effect in this Council. That resolution was carried, only the two hon. members representing the Bench of Justices and the Chamber of Commerce respectively voting against it. In my speech proposing that resolution I urged the advisability of availing of the low rates then ruling for labour and materials. The then Director of Public Works estimated the cost of a building suitable to the requirements at \$60,000. This advice was disregarded, and the Government neglected to act on the resolution, and the tenancy of "Craigieburn" was continued. When that lease expired, the house now occupied, namely "The Cliffs," was taken, the task of building being again deferred. "The Cliffs" is smaller than "Craigieburn," or than the large house opposite to Mount Austin Barracks, either of which might have been rented. The chief reason Sir William Robinson was reluctant to build was, as I under-

stood, because the new residence would not have been completed before the expiration of his term of office. But your Excellency has but just commenced your administration, and if a residence were now commenced you would in eighteen months be lodged in a mansion worthy of the colony and of the Queen's representative. I come now to the question of economy, on which plea I suppose the present action will be defended. Well, Sir, I say such economy is false economy. True economy would be found in building a new house. If you add two years rent of "The Cliffs" to the proposed expenditure of \$3,500 you will find the total is more than the interest on \$75,000 at 3½ per cent. per annum for the same period—\$8,700 versus \$5,250—besides the advantage derived by your being provided with a comfortable house. Besides, what guarantee is there that such a frail wooden structure as is proposed to be added to "The Cliffs" may not, especially in so exposed a position, be damaged or blown down in the first typhoon that occurs after its completion? It is also my experience that such estimates are almost invariably exceeded. Loss has already been incurred by delaying to build and this will be augmented by further procrastination. Mr. Cooper's estimate of \$60,000 for a Government residence would no longer suffice. Our present Director of Public Works estimates that a suitable residence could not now be built under \$75,000. This alone represents a loss to the colony of \$15,000. If to this you now add \$2,500 for a temporary bungalow you have a total of \$18,500 actually thrown away. I think that the local architects will bear me out in saying that there is no chance of building rates going down; the tendency is quite the other way, and further delay may result in further loss to the colonial exchequer. I hope your Excellency will take the bold and the prudent course and build. I shall be proud if anything I have said or done will conduce to such a resolution, and shall be very pleased to see the Governor of this colony provided with a residence worthy of his position and dignity. (Hear, hear.)

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—When this vote was brought before the Finance Committee certain information was asked for which was partially supplied. I then considered that the vote was a necessary and reasonable one and I voted for it. The honourable member opposite asked what rent was paid for "The Cliffs" by the previous tenant. The Bank which I have the honour to represent was the previous tenant, and we paid \$2,000 a year rent. The honourable member who was in the chair at that meeting could not say from memory what the rental was now, but he thought it was \$2,700. Then the estimates were sent for and some of our valuable time was wasted until they arrived. It was found that the rental was \$2,600. I have not the least doubt there are good and valid reasons for this very large increase in rent, but so far the Council has not been informed of the reasons for that substantial increase. I submit that when financial votes are again brought forward the Chairman of the Finance Committee should come fully prepared with regard to such votes, and that every information should be furnished without its having to be dragged out of the Government. On the last occasion I submit that the time of the Finance Committee was unnecessarily wasted while the estimates were being sent for and certain information was being hunted up. I think it would be more conducive to the maintenance of the dignity of this honourable Council if the Finance Committee were treated with less flippancy than they were treated with on the last occasion. (Hear, hear.)

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I very much regret to hear the honourable member on my right speak as he has done. It is true that some two minutes' time was wasted, as he puts it, in procuring the estimates from the inner office. When these estimates had been procured the Finance Committee was at once put in possession of the information desired. All the information on which both the speeches of the honourable members have been delivered was in possession of the Finance Committee at its last meeting. With regard to the increase in rent to which the honourable member on my right has referred, the increase amounts to \$600 a

year as compared with the rent paid by the former tenant. That increase is due to certain improvements having been made to the property the expense of which amounted to a sum the interest on which is \$50 a month or \$600 a year.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—At what per cent. per annum?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I think it was 5 per cent. The honourable member opposite can furnish you with that information no doubt. With regard to renting the house opposite Mount Austin Hotel and "Craigieburn," the reason why the Government did not rent either of these houses was that the rents asked by the owners were considered far too excessive.

HIS EXCELLENCY—With regard to this matter of the Governor's summer residence, I may tell the Council that the first thing I knew about the fact that "Craigieburn" was not available was when I got to London. I do not think they knew at the Colonial Office even that "Craigieburn" would not be available until immediately before my arrival in England. I think it goes without saying that "The Cliffs" is probably not a suitable place for the Governor for a permanent summer residence, but I determined I should wait for one summer at least before I determined the position of the Governor's House, because I think it is my duty not alone to consult my own convenience in this matter but to look forward a little and consider the possible expansion of the colony and possible best position for the future Governors. As regards this addition to "The Cliffs" that is to be put up, that is a temporary matter. I believe I am right in saying that at the expiration of the lease of three years the structure can be removed. In the meantime the possibility of a typhoon has been discounted by me, because the temporary structure will be occupied by my Private Secretary and my A.D.C. (Laughter.)

The report was adopted.

REPORT OF THE LAW COMMITTEE.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL laid on the table the report of the Standing Law Committee on an Ordinance to amend the law relating to solicitors of the Supreme Court.

A SCHOOL WANTED AT KOWLOON.

The Hon. E. R. BELILIOS—At the next meeting of the Council I propose to ask a question on the subject of a school required for children of residents at Kowloon. (Hear, hear.)

THE JUBILEE ROAD.

The Hon. E. R. BELILIOS had given notice of the following questions:—

(1.)—There being an understanding between the subscribers to the fund for the commemoration of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee that the Jubilee Road shall be constructed, the funds for which are now lying in the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank untouched though nearly two years have elapsed since their subscription, will the Government be good enough to state whether the survey and planning of the road have been completed?

(2.)—Will the Government be good enough to state when it is proposed to commence work on the first section of the Jubilee Road?

(3.)—Will the first section be made round Mount Davis?

(4.)—Can the Government give the approximate date of the completion of the section to its juncture with the Aberdeen Road?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY gave the following answers to the different questions:—

(1.)—Yes.

(2.)—The work will be commenced as soon as the money subscribed is available.

(3.)—The first section will not be round Mount Davis, as there are military objections.

(4.)—No answer is required in view of the answer given to question 3.

INSANITARY LANES.

The Hon. C. P. CHATER had given notice of the following question:—

With reference to the Notes and Comments contained in the *Hongkong Telegraph* of Monday, the 27th February last, relating to the alleged insanitary condition of certain lanes and alleys lying between Queen's Road and the Praya, to the westward of Pedder Street, will the Government state whether the condition of the lanes and alleys in question is such as it is said to be?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied as follows:—

(1.)—Many of the Lanes in question, being private lanes, are used by wholesale dealers in fruit and vegetables for the conduct of their trade and may consequently be found during the day time to contain fresh vegetable refuse, but this is removed daily, night and morning, by the Government scavengers, and is not allowed to lie in the streets and lanes and decompose as alleged.

(2.)—It is customary to place soil pipes on the outside of kitchen walls, rather than on the inside, and such pipes do occasionally become choked, through carelessness of tenants, but immediate action is taken to compel the abatement of the nuisance and the tenants are rendered every assistance in the removal of such obstructions.

THE CONTROL OF THE SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD had given notice of the following questions:—

(1) Will the Government inform the Council on what grounds it has refused to put an end to the farming out of the slaughter-houses to a Chinese contractor as recommended by the Sanitary Board in their resolution of 2nd February last, which reads:—

"That the Board recommend the Government to transfer the management and control of the slaughter-houses to the Sanitary Board upon the expiration of the present lease to the farmer."

(2.) Referring to the statement in the fifth paragraph of the Secretary of State's despatch No. 254 of 6th November, 1896, will the Government inform the Council whether the Secretary of State for the Colonies has given any decision as to the reconstruction of the Sanitary Board in connection with Sir William Robinson's recommendations on the subject contained in his despatch No. 150 of 30th June, 1896.

(3.) Will the Government inform the Council whether, in the opinion of its legal adviser, the action of the Sanitary Board as at present constituted is, in face of the provisions of section 4 of the Public Health Ordinance No. 24 of 1887, legal and justifiable?

(4.) Will His Excellency the Governor inform the Council whether he has received any instructions to deal with the reconstitution of the Sanitary Board?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied as follows:—

(1.)—The Government does not consider it advisable at present to make any alteration in the management of the slaughter-houses.

(2.)—No decision has been given.

(3.)—Opinions of the Attorney-General are confidential communications to Government and cannot be made public.

(4.)—No instructions have been received.

LAY MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH BODY AND THEIR TENURE OF OFFICE.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to provide for the Performance of Divine Worship and other Services in accordance with the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England at Saint John's Cathedral Church at Victoria and elsewhere in this Colony; for the Incorporation of a Church Body in which the said Cathedral Church shall be vested and by which it shall be administered; and for other purposes connected with the said Cathedral Church. If honourable members will kindly turn to the statement of objects and reasons set out at the end of the Bill they will see that this measure is for the most part purely a re-enactment of the present law which is in force. The only point of any importance in which this Bill contains an amendment upon the present law is that it makes the tenure of office of lay members of the Church Body annual instead of permanent.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and the motion was carried.

The Council having considered the Bill in Committee it was read a third time and passed.

THE LAW RELATING TO SOLICITORS. THE

HON. E. R. BELILIOS AND THE RESIDENCE CLAUSE.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to propose that the Council go into Committee to consider clause 21 of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the law relating to solicitors of the Supreme Court. I would ask honourable members to kindly refer to the report of the Standing Law Committee on this Bill which I have laid on the table at this meeting

of the Council, and I would now draw the attention of honourable members—

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I submit that this is an irregular course of procedure. The members are not being properly treated. I think these reports should be sent round one or two days or three days at least before the matter is brought up with a view to the business being conducted on regular lines.

The CLERK OF COUNCILS—It was sent round with the orders of the day.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I understand that the Clerk of Councils has forwarded to each member a copy of the report with the orders of the day. I do not know whether the honourable member has received it.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—No; it has not reached me.

The Hon. C. P. CHATER—I have received mine.

The Hon. E. R. BELLIOS—I did not receive the amended form. The original form was sent to me. I only found it on the table.

HIS EXCELLENCY—I think this matter had better stand over until the amended form can be sent round to the members. It is very important that the amended form should be properly considered.

After consulting with the Acting Attorney General HIS EXCELLENCY said—The Acting Attorney-General says he will probably not be here at the next meeting of the Council, and it is important we should have his assistance. I quite agree with honourable members that these matters should be forwarded in time to give time for consideration. Has the honourable member a copy now?

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—No, sir. There is not one on the table—neither of the amended nor of the original.

The Hon. E. R. BELLIOS—I think the omission of this important clause should have been published in the *Gazette* for solicitors to see.

HIS EXCELLENCY—I do not think that that would be the regular course.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—The Honourable Mr. Bell-Irving has received his copy of the Report and so have I.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—The amendment I referred to is No. 13 in the report. I will just read the paragraph in the report. It says, "That the whole of clause 21 be struck out and that clause 22 be numbered clause 21. The Hon. E. R. Bellios, C.M.G., was opposed to this amendment but all the other members of the Committee were in favour of it. I have caused a special slip to be printed for honourable members containing clause 21. Honourable members will remember that I referred to this particular clause at a previous meeting of the Council. That clause runs as follows:—"No person who shall have been admitted as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of Judicature in England or as an attorney or writer in one of the Courts at Dublin or Edinburgh shall be admitted to practise within the colony as a solicitor otherwise than as a clerk to a solicitor or firm of solicitors practising in the colony until he shall have actually resided in the colony for a period of six months next preceding such admission and unless he shall have previously given six months' notice in writing to the Registrar of the Court of his desire and intention to apply to be so admitted; but any person who may have been admitted to practise as a solicitor within the colony as a clerk to another solicitor or firm of solicitors shall, after having so practised for a period of six months, be deemed to have been admitted to practise within the colony as a solicitor and shall be entitled so to practise upon his own account unless precluded from so doing by any lawful agreement or undertaking." With regard to the publication of the omission of this clause in the *Government Gazette*, I would point out that no determination has been come to as yet by the Council as to the deletion of this clause. It will be for honourable members of this Council to decide by a majority when this matter is in committee whether this clause shall or shall not be retained. With these observations I beg to move that the Council go into committee to consider clause 21 of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the law relating to solicitors of the Supreme Court.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was carried.

The ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL—I beg to move, in accordance with the conclusion arrived at by the majority of the honourable members of the Law Committee that the whole of clause 21 be struck out and that clause 22 be renumbered as clause 21. I think, sir, it will be seen that the object of this clause 21 is undoubtedly to confer to a certain extent a sort of monopoly, if I may so express it, on the solicitors at present practising in the colony in the solicitors' legal work of the colony; because it would be very difficult for an outside person, if this clause were to remain standing, to go into practice on his own account. Of course if any solicitor came to this colony and acted as clerk to a firm of solicitors he would no doubt be asked to enter into an agreement binding him down to prevent him from practising in the colony. I think it is better that there should be freedom in these matters, and that people should be free to come and go and be free to set up as solicitors without any restriction; that the public should have the benefit of the best legal advice available, and that no one who comes into the colony should be in any way restricted from setting up in the profession of solicitor. I therefore beg to move that the whole of clause 21 be struck out and clause 22 be re-numbered.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

The Hon. E. R. BELLIOS—As I object to the deletion of clause 21 I beg to offer a few remarks in support of my contention. I understand that this clause forms part of the Ordinance now in force in the Straits Settlements. The conditions which obtain here are similar to those which obtain in the Straits Settlements, and I do not see the reason why such an important clause should be deleted from our Bill. I take it that the advantages to be derived from the retention of this clause would be threefold. First, it would restrict the influx of lawyers of unknown character and dispositions into the colony, thus restricting and discouraging litigation. (Laughter.) Secondly, it would protect the interest of our fellow-citizens the old-established solicitors and attorneys in this island; and thirdly, it would safeguard the colony from being victimised by unscrupulous men. For instance, a practitioner works hard and builds up a business for himself, but there appears suddenly in the field a rank stranger, a man probably of loose character, who has no knowledge of the local laws and customs, and who sets to work either by fair or foul means, and cuts into the business of the old-established lawyer. Surely, sir, notice of some kind, however short, might be given to enable this old resident to cope with the new-comer as best he may in the preservation of his vested interests and rights. Six months' notice of residence or probation cannot be a hardship to the new-comer. He has everything to win and nothing to lose, and his character should be known before the residents can be allowed to entrust their interests in his hands. Honourable members will remember the man named Webber who landed here a few years ago and soon after he was admitted into the courts commenced to practice in this colony. Before his character became known he victimised a number of clients, and before any redress could be obtained he cleared out of the colony. Mr. Norton Kyshe in his "History of the Laws and Courts of Hongkong," tells us that the lawyers in Hongkong enjoy a high reputation. If that is so I contend it is the duty of the legislature to see that no black sheep enters their ranks, and that that reputation continues unsullied. In my address I have mentioned only the Straits Settlements, but I find that except the Cape and Jamaica all the British colonies have made laws and regulations fixing periods of residence before a solicitor can be admitted in the courts and qualified to practice. In South Australia one year's residence and notice of desire to be admitted is necessary. In all other Australian courts no solicitor can be admitted to practice without serving his time in the colony and passing examinations there. In Canada in the district of Ontario it is and has for many years past been necessary for an English solicitor desirous of practicing there

to be first resident in the colony for one year, while in the Quebec district he cannot be admitted to practice until he has served his articles afresh in the colony for a period of from three to five years. In British Columbia an English solicitor can be admitted to practice only after a period of one year's *bona fide* residence in the colony. In New Zealand an English solicitor before he can be admitted to practice in the colony must give notice of his desire to enter and must pass a thorough examination as to his knowledge of local laws. If this clause be expunged from the Bill Hongkong will be taking a retrograde movement, and will not be in touch with the other British colonies. For these reasons, and for the sake of the welfare of the colony, I submit that clause 21 should form part of the Bill.

The Hon. Dr. Ho Kai—Sir, I am one of the members of the Law Committee who voted against the retention of the clause, and for the reason that it is against free trade and free competition. At the end of this 19th century it is very curious to hear one speak of the vested interests of a profession or a trade, and to argue that those who happen to have been in the locality for some little time should in consequence have the field to themselves, and that a sort of monopoly should be created in their favour and the door shut against others. The honourable member who has just sat down said he defended the retention of this clause on three grounds. First of all, he said, it would decrease litigation. If you took away all the lawyers from a place I am afraid it would not stop litigation. One more solicitor in a place or one less will not lessen or materially affect the litigation in that place, provided the inhabitants of that particular district are bent upon litigation. Some people, it will be within the knowledge of this Council, are particularly fond of litigation, and I am sure one or two more solicitors in the colony would not increase it. As to the vested interests of existing solicitors being affected, vested interests are totally at variance with the idea of free trade in England and equal opportunities to all—not only to the Queen's subjects but to foreigners. (Hear, hear.) As to our being cheated by unscrupulous men in any trade or profession, we have to use our common sense, as for instance when we ask advice of a doctor, a solicitor, or an architect. The law cannot like an old grandmother provide all this for grown-up men. (Hear, hear.) The honourable member who has just sat down seemed to think he had given us a good example in favour of the retention of the clause. He gave the case of Mr. Webber. I think everybody who was in the colony during Mr. Webber's time knows that he came out as a solicitor clerk to Mr. Ewens. He was with Mr. Ewens for more than a year—I believe it was two years—after that he came out and got himself admitted as a solicitor practising in the colony on his own account, and it was only after he left Mr. Ewens's office that these scandals came out. Supposing a man in the same way were to come into the colony, serve his time with a solicitor, and then, supposing clause 21 were retained, set up for himself, what protection should we get? I think the example mentioned by the honourable gentleman served to show how imperfect the protection would be if the clause were retained. (Hear, hear.) For the broad reason of fair play I am against the retention of this clause. The honourable member quoted a lot of other colonies which have a clause of this kind in operation. He mentioned Australia, but Australia is different from Hongkong. Hongkong is a Crown colony, whereas the Australian colonies are mostly self-governing. Therefore the law in the Australian colonies may be materially different from the law of England and may require a year or six months for a man to get accustomed to it; but in this colony we mostly adopt the law of England as our law, and our local ordinances are not very voluminous. A man can easily get hold of them in a very short time. For these reasons I support the deletion of the clause and when in the law Committee supported the proposal to strike it out.

The Hon. E. R. BELLIOS—With your permission there is one point I may as well answer. My honourable friend referred to solicitors who had served their time in a solicitor's firm here

and then went out and formed a practice. He put such solicitor on the same footing as a full-blown solicitor who comes direct from England and starts as a solicitor. A solicitor who comes as a clerk to a firm of solicitors comes on the recommendation of people in England who have probably known him from childhood. They have studied him, they have studied his character, and recommended him to a firm of solicitors in this colony. Consequently there is some safeguard with regard to him, but it is quite different in a full-blown solicitor coming here and starting practice within a fortnight of his arrival.

The motion was then put and carried.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL suggested that as he would not be present at the next meeting of the Council it would be advisable for the Standing Orders to be suspended so that the Bill could be read a third time. He proposed that the standing orders be suspended.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was passed.

The Hon. E. R. BELILIOS—I would request you to postpone the third reading of the Bill until the solicitors have had their say on the subject.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—The standing orders having been suspended I beg leave to move the third reading of the Bill.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded. A division was then taken at the request of the Hon. E. R. Belilios, and every member of the Council, except the Hon. E. R. Belilios, voted in favour of the motion, which was accordingly carried.

The Council then adjourned *sine die*.

SUPREME COURT.

11th March.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE), AND MR. JUSTICE WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

THE HARDON-BELILIOS CASE.

The Hardon-Belilios case was again brought before the court, notice having been given of an application for leave to appeal to the Privy Council against the decision of the full court on February 23th, when an appeal brought by E. A. Hardon was dismissed with costs. It was on the 19th May last that judgment was given against Mr. Hardon, who brought an action against the Hon. E. R. Belilios, contending that the latter was the true owner of certain shares and was liable by agreement or otherwise to indemnify him in respect of all calls on the shares.

The Hon. H. E. Pollock (instructed by Messrs. Mounsey and Brutton) appeared for Mr. Hardon and Mr. E. Robinson (instructed by Messrs. Deacon and Hastings) for Mr. Belilios.

The Chief Justice—I think it may shorten matters if we state what our view of the matter is. Our view is that we are quite willing if we have power to grant leave to appeal—I think that was indicated at the hearing of the appeal—but we feel some doubt whether we have power to grant such leave, and we think it would be more satisfactory if you will take an order calling on the other side to appear and show cause why leave should not be given. I am aware that proceedings of this kind are generally *ex parte*, but I think it would be more satisfactory if you consent to that course.

The Puisne Judge—You say you are making up the amount with interest. Will you tell me when was the call made?

Mr. Pollock said the call was payable on the 15th November, 1895, and judgment was delivered in the High Court on June 27th, 1896. Of course with regard to the giving notice to the other side he thought it had been laid down by the court in the case of the Bank of China and Japan that that application was to be made *ex parte*, and the wording of the rules showed that they were entitled to a right of appeal if they proved themselves up to the appealable amount. There was nothing in the rules about giving any notice to the other side.

The Chief Justice said he thought it would be more satisfactory if the suggestion of the

court were adopted. They were not clear at present that they had power to grant the appeal. It was agreed to adopt the suggestion of the court, and Monday next was fixed for the hearing of the application.

13th March.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND A SPECIAL JURY.

THE FILIPINOS AND THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANK.

In this case Crisanto Lichanco and Gregorio Agoncillo, as attorneys of Emilio Aguinaldo, sought to obtain possession of \$200,000 now in the custody of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, which sum was deposited in the Bank by Emilio Aguinaldo on the 3rd January last year.

Mr. M. W. Slade (instructed by Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for plaintiffs and Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Messrs. Johnson, Stokes, and Master) for defendant.

The following composed the jury:—Messrs. J. M. Beattie (foreman), A. F. Smith, E. Osborne, A. Babington, W. Dauby, E. S. Wheeler, and Douglas W. Craddock.

Mr. Slade commenced by reading the petition, which recited that on the 3rd of January, 1898, Aguinaldo lent the Bank \$200,000, which was to be repaid together with interest at the rate of 4 per cent. on the 3rd of January, 1899. In their answer to the petition the Bank admitted having refused to pay the money to Crisanto Lichanco and Gregorio Agoncillo, on the ground that they were not satisfied that they were the duly authorised attorneys of Aguinaldo. Continuing, Mr. Slade said the jury would have gathered fairly clearly from the pleadings what the nature of the case was, but he thought they would hardly have gathered how little there was for them to decide upon. They had been brought there by the defendant Corporation to judge facts. The law was for his lordship to decide. The facts in this case were very largely admitted by both sides, and he thought they would find that the number of facts on which they would have to decide would be very small, while the extent of legal argument to which they would have to listen would be very great. The facts were really of the simplest nature. In January of last year Aguinaldo deposited with the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation the sum of \$200,000. That was to say, he lent that sum to the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, just as he might have lent it to one of them or to anyone else, and he received a receipt in which the terms were set out—that the loan was to be for one year, interest at 4 per cent. and the receipt was not transferable. The fact of that receipt not being transferable made it an instrument which could not be passed from one hand to another like a bill. On the 3rd of January of this year, in accordance with the terms of the loan, at the expiration of the year, Aguinaldo sent two men—plaintiffs in this case—to the Bank. They went to the Bank and presented a power of attorney and the original deposit receipt and demanded the money. The deposit receipt in question was dated January 3rd, 1898, and bore the following endorsement, "Please pay the sum of \$200,000 with the premium called for by this receipt to Messrs. Felipe Agoncillo and Vito Belarmino." The power of attorney was signed by Emilio Aguinaldo and also bore the signature of Mr. Oscar F. Williams, the U. S. Consul in Manila.

Mr. Francis objected to Mr. Slade referring to the power of attorney, adding that he knew perfectly well they were going to object to the document.

The Chief Justice said Mr. Slade might refer to it generally subject to it being proved.

Mr. Francis admitted that he might refer to it generally but not to state the details.

After some little further argument on the point,

Mr. Slade, continuing, said that on the Bank declining to pay a writ was issued and the petition filed. In due course the Bank filed their answer, and with their answer the solicitors

for the Bank (Messrs Johnson, Stokes, and Master) wrote a letter in which they stated—he might say very clearly—the position which they adopted. This letter, which was dated January 30th, was as follows:—In handing you copy of the defendants' answer herein, we again beg to remind you that our clients have always been ready and willing to pay over to your clients, Messrs Crisanto Lichanco and Gregorio Agoncillo, the sum of \$200,000 on deposit in the Bank's hands to the credit of Mr. Emilio Aguinaldo, with the accrued interest thereon, upon being satisfied by any reasonable evidence that the persons named in the endorsement on the deposit receipt were only agents for collection or if they took any interest in the monies in question, have released or reassigned such interest, and upon being satisfied that the power of attorney your clients hold was in fact executed by Emilio Aguinaldo. A very simple amendment or additional declaration from the U.S. Consul in Manila that he is personally acquainted with Aguinaldo will suffice on the second point, or even a declaration from the U.S. Consul-General here that Mr. Williams is well acquainted with Aguinaldo and could not possibly have certified as he has done if Aguinaldo himself had not executed the instrument. As to the first, a declaration from Vito Belarmino or Felipe Agoncillo will amply suffice. It seems to us that if this suit comes to trial you will have to procure all this same evidence and more at the very great cost of a commission and with very great delay. You can now obtain it very quickly and at a trifling cost, and the Bank's agent in Manila or Iloilo can be instructed to render all assistance possible. If you still persist in your refusal, we give you express notice that any claim on your clients' part to costs will be resisted and this letter and previous correspondence will be used in evidence. We suggest for your consideration that the opinion of the Court on the answer might easily be taken on a motion by the plaintiff to strike it out on the ground that in your opinion it discloses no defence. To any judgment or order of the Court obtained in that way after argument the defendant is fully prepared to submit." Could the jury imagine that the United States Consul in Manila did not know Aguinaldo very well? Did not every man in the Bank know well that Mr. Williams, the American Consul at Manila during the time of the late disturbance, had numerous dealings with Aguinaldo himself, and must know Aguinaldo well? The one thing which the Bank required was a declaration from Mr. Williams that he knew Aguinaldo, and they put that forward as a reason for not paying this money. The following answer was returned to this letter, dated Feb. 1st, by Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist:—"In reply to your letter of the 30th ult., containing a repetition of the statement which has been so frequently made by you, that your clients are willing to pay the claim in this suit upon the performance by the plaintiffs' attorneys of certain conditions, we can only in turn repeat what we have already said several times, that we have advised our clients that they are under no obligation to perform those conditions even though able to do so, which, having regard to the political situation in the Philippines and the absence from Manila and unknown whereabouts of both Vito Belarmino and Felipe Agoncillo, is more than doubtful. We have been waiting for the service upon us of the answer in anticipation of the possibility of it enabling us to take the course suggested in the last part of your letter, but it must be perfectly obvious to you that as your counsel has thought fit to deny that Senors Lichanco and Agoncillo are attorneys of the plaintiff, and also to describe the endorsements upon the deposit receipt as an order upon the Bank, without setting out the words of such endorsement, he has rendered it necessary that the suit should proceed to trial and advisable that we should file a replication." The remainder of the letter, Mr. Slade said, referred to the taking out of the replication. Practically the whole question for the jury to decide was whether or not this power of attorney was executed by Aguinaldo. The document was signed in two places by Aguinaldo and under each came the certificate of Mr. Williams, the U.S. Consul at Manila. The jury would have

to decide whether this signature was the signature of Emilio Aguinaldo. In order to prove that this was Aguinaldo's signature he would call before them a gentleman of the name of Bray, resident many years in Manila and well acquainted with Aguinaldo. He had seen Aguinaldo many times; in one particular instance he saw Aguinaldo sign the agreement between the U.S. Consul at Singapore and Aguinaldo. Mr. Bray had seen Aguinaldo write his signature many times, and he had letters from Aguinaldo in his possession. He would tell the jury that he had not the slightest doubt that the two signatures on these documents were in Aguinaldo's own writing. Mr. Keenan, of the Chartered Bank, where Aguinaldo, in the early part of last year, had an account, would produce a number of cheques drawn by Aguinaldo on that account, which were paid by the Bank. He would tell them that if a cheque bearing any of these signatures on the power of attorney had been presented to him, and he was the man who was responsible for paying the cheques of the Bank, he would allow it to be paid. When the deposit receipt was presented to the Bank in May last year, the Bank stated in their answer that the only reason they did not pay the money was that the time of the loan had not yet expired, so that it was perfectly clear that they did not dispute this signature on the deposit note, and he would ask the jury to compare the signature on the deposit note with the signature on the power of attorney. He would also call upon Mr. Thomas Jackson to produce thirty-five paid cheques drawn by Aguinaldo on his account for sums varying between \$200,000 and a few dollars, and he would also call for the book of the bank in which Aguinaldo's signature appeared. He would ask the jury to compare the signatures on these cheques and the signature in the book with the signature on the power of attorney. Mr. Slade said he had not seen the cheques, nor had anyone interested in the plaintiffs' case seen the cheques, but so confident were they of the genuineness of Aguinaldo's signatures on this document that they were going to have them put forward in support of their case. He thought the Bank wanted something more than "reasonable evidence" when they had in their possession thirty-five copies of Aguinaldo's signature. Mr. Slade proceeded to quote a considerable number of authorities to prove his contentions in regard to the law, occupying the whole of the morning and the afternoon.

14th March.

Mr. Slade—My Lord, before this case is called on I wish to call your lordship's attention to what I submit is an exceedingly improper report of this case which appeared in one of last night's papers, namely, the *China Mail*.

The Chief Justice—You have no affidavit?

Mr. Slade—I have the paper and nothing else. I wish to call your lordship's attention to it and if necessary I am prepared to make a motion on the adjournment to commit the proprietors of this paper for contempt of court.

The Chief Justice—Unless you have an affidavit I do not think I can deal with the matter.

Mr. Slade—Certainly, but I thought it would be convenient to mention the matter now. It is only concerning the heading, which I think is distinctly calculated to prejudice the minds of the jury against the plaintiffs in the case.

The Chief Justice—You must bring it before the Court in the regular way. Have you communicated with the publisher of the paper?

Mr. Slade—He has been communicated with informally but I do not know whether it has reached him yet. There has been no formal communication.

The Chief Justice—You understand what I mean by communicating. If you have any proper complaint I think the publisher and proprietor should be communicated with.

It was decided to deal with the matter after the adjournment.

Mr. Slade continued his opening, dealing with the questions of law which arose.

After tiffin Mr. Slade continued his argument, and finally the case was adjourned for the settlement of issues. The proceedings against the *China Mail* have, we understand, been dropped.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. JUSTICE WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE.)

COLLINS V. MCMAHON

R. A. Collins, of the Dragon Cycle Works, sought to recover from Sir Horace McMahon, Bt., Captain in the Royal Welch Fusiliers, the sum of \$120 for repairs done to four bicycles and the supply of one Dunlop tyre.

Mr. Looker (of Messrs. Deacon and Hastings) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Gedge (Messrs. Jonuson, Stokes and Master) for the defendant.

The plaintiff said that sometime in the beginning of February last the defendant asked him to go to the Murray Barracks as he had some bicycles to be repaired. Plaintiff accordingly went to the Barracks the next morning, and Lieut. Hay showed him four bicycles which were in the open air in the road in a very bad state. It was agreed between the plaintiff and Lieut. Hay that the machines were to be re-enamelled, fresh tubes were to be supplied where necessary, and that the machines were to be put in thorough working order for the sum of \$100. \$20 was to be charged extra for the Dunlop tyre.

In cross-examination, plaintiff admitted that the bicycles were re-enamelled with Aspinall's and not baked enamel as generally used. Plaintiff denied that anything was said to Mr. Hay about renickelling and considered he had fulfilled his contract when he returned the machines, which were in thorough working order.

Emerson Gibson was called as an expert witness on behalf of the plaintiff.

Sir Horace McMahon said that Lieut. Hay contracted with the plaintiff, and that he had nothing to do with the contract. He, however, waived this objection.

Lieut. Hay, R.W.F., said the contract was to thoroughly repair, renickel, re-enamel, and overhaul the machines. Plaintiff was to supply new tubes to tyres where necessary. When plaintiff returned the four machines, they were not in rideable condition. The tyres could not be blown up properly, stood only for 24 hours. The machines were not and could not be ridden since they were returned.

James Livingstone was called as an expert witness on behalf of the defendant, and said he found many defects in the machines, which were not in a rideable state when he examined them.

His Lordship held that the plaintiff did not fulfil his original contract, and therefore, in law, he could not recover. Judgment was entered for the defendant with costs.

The four machines were exhibited in Court.

SETTLEMENT EXTENSION AT SHANGHAI.

PROTESTS BY THE FRENCH AND RUSSIAN CONSULS.

JOINT ACTION BY THE BRITISH AND AMERICANS.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."]
Shanghai, 14th March.

The American and British Consuls are jointly pressing the Chinese for a prompt adjustment of the present deadlock with reference to the extension of the Settlement.

The French and Russian Consuls oppose the extension unless the protests against the extension of the French Settlement are withdrawn, an attitude which conflicts with American and British interests.

Meetings of the Americans and British have been called with a view to protest against Franco-Russian interference and to appeal to their respective Governments.

SHANGHAI, 16th March.

At a joint meeting of the China Association and American Association of China a resolution was unanimously passed urging vigorous action on the part of the British and United States Governments with the object of securing an extension of the general settlement.

DELIMITATION OF THE KOW LOON FRONTIER.

13th March.

The delimitation of the Kowloon frontier is at last to be entered upon. Kee Wei, an Expectant Magistrate, and another Welyuen named Wong Chuin-shin are the Chinese officers appointed for the purpose and the Canton Government *Gazette* contains a notification to the effect that they paid a visit to the Viceroy's Yamen on the 10th inst. to take leave of His Excellency. The gunboat *Kwangli* has been placed at their disposal for the journey to Hongkong.

17th March.

Yesterday morning the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart and Kei Wei and Wong Chuin Shin left for Mira Bay for the purpose of delimitating the Kowloon frontier.

THE WAR IN THE PHILIPPINES.

STEADY SKIRMISHING AND TWO BATTLES.

ARRIVAL OF REINFORCEMENTS—MORE EXPECTED.

ACTION TO BEGIN WITH GENERAL LAWTON'S ARRIVAL.

RESUME OF THE SITUATION.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT].

Manila, 8th March.

Though the last six days have been marked by constant fighting, and two engagements have approached the severity of battles, there has been practically no change in the American position. In accordance with general orders, ground fought over and cleared out time and time again has been given up only to have the natives come drifting back and hanging on the front and flanks threatening the men in the trenches. The death list has been swelled and hospital cots occupied over and over again and all to very little purpose.

Up to March 4th San Pedro Macati was the objective of the Filipino skirmishers and small engagements, in which a man or two would be killed and half a dozen wounded, occurred almost with the regularity of meals, and in fact it was the usual thing for a flight of Mausers to come into camp about daylight or breakfast, and another small brush to happen along just before dark. The men were not allowed to go beyond the trenches, but the artillery, posted on high positions, kept a sharp look out and accomplished about as much by the terrifying boom of the discharge and bursting as by the actual damage of the shrapnel. People there are who will tell any credulous listener that dozens of times they have seen shells exploding right in a bunch of natives, undoubtedly killing them all or at least a large number, yet the natives seem to have an unlimited stock of men ready to be blown up. During the regular sharpshooting it is a rare thing for a man in the lines to be able to see more than a puff of smoke and a fragment of clothing or clot of white colour, to indicate some crouching native. Under these circumstances the death rate is bound to be very low.

The arrival of the transports *Senator* and *Ohio* with the 22nd U.S. Infantry, which saw service in Cuba, has naturally strengthened the forces. The men have all been landed and show up in good form, although some of them still have traces of the Cuban fever in their bones.

On the 6th inst. the first extensive action in several days took place. During the previous night the outposts near the waterworks had some difficulty with the natives and as daylight approached firing became general along the front of General Hale's brigade. The insurgents were in strong positions near Santolan and refused to budge until the infantry was aided by the artillery. The Nebraskans, Colorado, Wyomings, four guns of the Utah battery, and two companies of the Oregons, together with four companies of the 20th Regulars in reserve, made a very respectable battle front. After three hours of hard fighting the insurgents

were dislodged and began retreating toward Pasig. During this engagement eight Americans were wounded, but none were killed, though one man may die of his wounds. Two men of the hospital corps were struck nearly a mile behind the firing line, probably by the bullets of some natives who had slipped around the flank.

The following day it was decided to clear out this strip of country and accordingly the work began about daylight. The Colorado, Nebraska, and 20th Regulars advanced on the flanks, with the Wyoming Volunteers attacking the front, backed up by the Artillery. The gunboat came up the river but could not get into a commanding position until the fight was well under way. A large body of natives variously estimated from 800 to 1,200 opposed the advance with great energy and at several points the soldiers came to close quarters before the enemy rushed to the cover of the brush. Early in the fight Major Bell and Captain J. D. O'Brien, the latter of the Wyoming regiment, were wounded, but fortunately in both cases recovery will be a matter of only a few days. As the natives retreated across country they came into range of the gunboat and General Wheaton's brigade on the south side of the Pasig River, and in this cross fire some fifty men were killed. By three o'clock the fight was well in hand and in half an hour more not a native was to be seen, though occasionally we could hear the sing of a bullet. General Hale reconnoitered some six hundred yards beyond the lines and found everything quiet. The new position was held until the reports were sent in to head quarters, but about six o'clock orders were received to occupy the old position, abandoning the advance. This morning the scattered natives were all back again merrily sending in the daylight salute, by way of showing that there was no ill feeling. In this fight there were seven Americans wounded and three killed.

WAITING FOR GENERAL LAWTON.

To-morrow or the next day General Lawton and a transport load of troops are expected in Manila and then work will begin. What with the coming of the Peace Commissioners and these new troops everything has been in a state of waiting. The idea is simply to hold the present lines until the arrival of a large part of the reinforcements. When General Lawton arrives he will very likely take charge of the military operations, relieving General Otis of a part of his most onerous duties. A regular plan of campaign will be put in operation and carried through with vigour in order to accomplish as much as possible before the fast approaching rainy season sets in.

ILOILO.

The latest advices from the south were brought up by Colonel Potter, who arrived this morning with dispatches for General Otis. On the whole the news is favourable, though Iloilo is still giving trouble, which is more than likely kept alive by the handful of Tagalogs who represent Aguinaldo's party.

NEGROS.

Colonel J. F. Smith and Major Sime landed one battalion of the 1st California Volunteers on March 3rd at Bacalod, Negros. This expedition was accompanied by the four commissioners who represented their island before General Otis. The soldiers were received with every sign of friendship and the most favourable progress is reported.

CEBU.

The transport *Pennsylvania* took one battalion of the 23rd U.S. Infantry, commanded by Major Goodall, to Cebu. Here the conditions are much the same as at Negros, though it will take more time to have affairs running smoothly.

ADVANCE BY WHEATON'S BRIGADE.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS,"]
Manila, 13th March.

General Wheaton's Brigade advanced from San Pedro to the bluffs commanding Pasig, Pateros, and Taguig.

The natives retreated with small loss.

The American casualties were fifteen wounded and two killed.

A gunboat shelled Pasig, the projectiles reaching the lake.

THE MESSING OF THE ROYAL WELCH FUSILIERS.

IS THERE REASONABLE GROUND OF COMPLAINT?

Recently three letters dealing with the messing of the Royal Welch Fusiliers have been published, two being letters of complaint and the third an explanatory letter from Lieut. Colonel Mainwaring. In the first instance a correspondent who signed himself "New Messing" complained that while the other portions of the Garrison paid eight cents a day messing money the Welch Fusiliers had to disburse 13 cents, and that in consequence the N. C. O.'s and men felt dissatisfied. This letter was followed by the one from Lieut. Colonel Mainwaring, who said "The Army Order which regulates the messing allowance contains these words: The allowance shall be at the rate of 13 cents of a dollar a day in Hongkong as a contribution towards extra messing hitherto charged to the soldier." He added: "This allowance is not part of a soldier's pay for him to spend as he wishes, but is made for the express purpose of providing extras to the Government rations; and commanding officers are responsible that it is so expended." The third letter, which was signed "Reform," said that any intelligent person who read the debates in the House of Commons should know that the recent Act was passed to give the soldier a higher rate of pay, and our correspondent added: "To force the soldier to spend the extra money in food is equivalent to saying he did not get enough to eat under the old regime."

From enquiries we have made we are bound to admit that the men have reasonable cause of complaint. It was understood, as "Reform" says, that the recent Act was intended to give Tommy Atkins a higher rate of pay, and the men connected with the other portions of the Garrison do get more pocket money in consequence of the passing of this Act, because, unlike the Welch Fusiliers, they pay the same amount of messing money—eight cents—as before. It was the same with the Lancaster Regiment when they were here.

The inference to be drawn from Lieut. Colonel Mainwaring's letter is that he is the only commanding officer in the colony who is complying with the Army Orders. The following, however, appears on page 65 of Army Orders, paragraph 2:—"The grant of the allowance will not involve any change in the arrangements for company messing. The men will pay the contribution towards extra messing at the same rate as before. The regimental charge for extra messing will as far as possible be restricted to a sum not exceeding threepence per day." The italics are ours. The other corps of the Garrison pay at the same rate as before, whereas the Royal Welch Fusiliers are compelled to pay at a rate 62 per cent higher than the other corps.

Assuredly this is a matter which it is advisable should be settled by reference to the War Office or otherwise. It is only to be expected that dissimilar rates of deduction from the pay—for that is what it practically amounts to—among the rank and file of the Garrison will lead to dissatisfaction.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD

OUTBREAK OF RINDERPEST AT WANCHAI.

A special meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held on the 10th March for the purpose of considering a report made by the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon with regard to an outbreak of rinderpest at Wanchai. The President (Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer) occupied the chair, and there were also present the Hon. R. D. Ormsby (Director of Public Works), Mr. E. Osborne, Dr. F. W. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. J. W. Duggan (Secretary), and Mr. C. V. Ladds, Colonial Veterinary Surgeon.

The PRESIDENT—I have called you together to consider a reported outbreak of rinderpest in Kennedy Street, Wanchai. The Secretary will read the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon's report.

The SECRETARY read the report, which stated that an outbreak of rinderpest had occurred at sheds Nos. 1 and 3, Kennedy Street, Wanchai, among 20 dairy cows housed there, the property

of Mr. Kennedy, Garden Road. The Colonial Veterinary Surgeon therefore recommended the immediate slaughter of the whole of these animals, and compensation at the rate of \$200 per head being granted, this being their average value.

The PRESIDENT—I asked Mr. Ladds to be present in case any member wished to ask him any questions with regard to this matter.

Mr. LADDS, answering the President, said that there were seven or eight other cowsheds in this locality.

Dr. CLARK—How many cattle are affected?

Mr. LADDS—At the present time eleven only are affected out of the 20. Nine at present show no symptoms of the disease.

Dr. CLARK—How far away is the nearest other shed containing cattle?

Mr. LADDS—One is the next shed—No. 5. The others are on the opposite side of the road.

Dr. CLARK—Does No. 5 contain cattle?

Mr. LADDS—Yes.

Dr. CLARK—Belonging to the same man?

Mr. LADDS—No.

The PRESIDENT—I think I am right in stating that in England it is the custom to slaughter all the cattle in a shed in which are animals affected by the disease?

Mr. LADDS—Yes, sir, and it is the best thing to do. They are sure to take it sooner or later; it is only a matter of time.

The Hon. R. D. ORMSBY—What steps were taken when there was an outbreak at the Dairy Farm a year or two ago?

Dr. CLARK—No action was taken because there were no other sheds contiguous. The cattle were allowed to die.

Mr. LADDS—The last five were slaughtered.

Dr. CLARK—That was last year, but he means the outbreak which took place a couple of years ago.

The Hon. R. D. ORMSBY—It occurs to me that the Dairy Farm's cattle were shut up and allowed to die. In this case, because the sheds and cattle are contiguous to other sheds and cattle, it is proposed to pay compensation. It does not seem fair that compensation should be paid in one case and not in another.

Mr. LADDS—In the outbreak of 1898 the remaining five cows were slaughtered and compensation paid.

Mr. OSBORNE—I am prepared to support Mr. Ladds's proposal on the understanding that when the disease spreads to other dairies similar compensation should be paid. Otherwise I cannot support the proposal.

The PRESIDENT—The first step is to declare these sheds—1 and 3—infected with rinderpest. I take it that the proposal to slaughter the cattle is to protect the other sheds in immediate proximity, and if they are slaughtered it is only fair compensation should be paid, because the cows would be slaughtered in the interests of public health. I move that these sheds be declared infected with rinderpest.

Dr. CLARK, in seconding, said that personally he did not see any reason why they should not slaughter the diseased cattle and let the healthy ones live until they contracted the disease. It seemed that if they were going to slaughter nine healthy cattle and pay \$200 for each of them they might possibly be spending more money than was absolutely necessary. The eleven diseased cows must be slaughtered no doubt.

The Hon. R. D. ORMSBY said he supposed that the cattle which had not contracted the disease were fit for food, and if so why should they pay \$200 for each of them?

Dr. CLARK—They would not be sold for food in any case.

The Hon. R. D. ORMSBY—Why not?

Mr. LADDS—It would not be advisable. It would be a bad precedent for the Chinese.

Mr. OSBORNE—Can the question of compensation be deferred?

Dr. CLARK—Not if they are slaughtered, the Government are bound to pay.

The PRESIDENT—As Colonial Veterinary Surgeon what is your opinion with respect to the cattle which have not got the disease in the sheds?

Mr. LADDS—I think there is no doubt they are contracting the disease. I think there is no doubt that the majority are in the early stages of incubation, and if we sweep them all out we need not fear the disease spreading anywhere else.

The PRESIDENT—In that case I think we ought to be guided by the opinion of the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, and order the immediate slaughter of the whole of the cattle in these two sheds.

Mr. LADDS—I may say that in many cases these cattle are worth over \$200. In some cases they are worth \$100.

The PRESIDENT—Have you any idea of the source of infection?

Mr. LADDS—No; I have no means of telling it.

Dr. CLARK proposed and the PRESIDENT seconded that the whole of the 20 cattle be slaughtered and their carcasses buried.

An amendment was proposed by Hon. R. D. ORMSBY, and seconded by Mr. OSBORNE, to the effect that only the diseased cattle should be slaughtered and that the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon should be authorised to have the others slaughtered if they contracted the disease.

Two voted for the amendment and two against.

The PRESIDENT gave his casting vote against, remarking that in a case like this he thought they should be guided by their skilled adviser.

The motion was accordingly carried.

MORE CASES OF RINDERPEST.

On 14th March a special meeting of the Sanitary Board was held, for the purpose of considering another outbreak of rinderpest. The President (Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer) presided. There were also present the Vice-President (the Hon. F. H. May, Captain Superintendent of Police), the Hon. R. D. Ormsby (Director of Public Works), Mr. E. Osborne, and Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health). Mr. C. V. Ladds (Colonial Veterinary Surgeon) was also present.

Dr. CLARK read the following report from Mr. Ladds:—"I have the honour to report for the information of the Sanitary Board that an outbreak of rinderpest has occurred in a shed at Mr. Kennedy's Causeway Bay Stables, in which six cows and one calf are housed. Three of the animals are infected. I recommend that all these animals be slaughtered at once, and that compensation to the amount of \$1,370 be paid for them under the provisions of Sections 3 and 5 of Ordinance 17 of 1887. There are also 31 animals which are housed in another part of the premises, but as they at present show no symptoms of the disease, I make no recommendation concerning them."

The VICE-PRESIDENT remarked that last year Mr. Ladds claimed to have cured a cow at the Dairy Farm at Pokfulam by serum treatment. He did not think they slaughtered any at the time.

Mr. LADDS—There were five slaughtered at the time. I only treated the last one.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—And the treatment was successful. You claimed to have cured it?

Mr. LADDS—I did cure it, there is not the slightest doubt.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—If these are isolated from the remaining 31 why not treat these?

Mr. LADDS—Because I have not the means to treat them, sir.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—Some of these are not even affected.

Mr. LADDS—Three of them are.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—And the other three are not?

The PRESIDENT—It is difficult to say they are not.

The Hon. R. D. ORMSBY asked why the three healthy ones could not be sent away to the other end of the island—to Stanley or Shan-tiwan? It would give them a chance.

Mr. LADDS—You run the risk of infecting the district to which you take them.

The Hon. R. D. ORMSBY—Mr. Kennedy has lately leased a large piece of land beyond the cotton mill for farming purposes. Why not send his healthy cattle there?

Mr. LADDS—That is not more than 100 yards away.

The Hon. R. D. ORMSBY—It is a great deal farther.

Mr. LADDS—200 yards.

The Hon. R. D. ORMSBY—It is a good quarter of a mile away.

The PRESIDENT—The disease is so contagious that any cattle in the same shed as the affected

cattle are almost certain to contract the disease.

Mr. LADDS—So they are.

The PRESIDENT—That is the reason why at home they are always killed at once.

Mr. LADDS—To treat cases it is necessary to have an animal which is recovering from the disease and also to have proper appliances. The appliances I have sent home for have not arrived.

Mr. OSBORNE said that when they discussed this matter at the last meeting it was decided to slaughter all the animals in the same shed—both those affected and those which were not. The point that occurred to him was this: These animals—speaking of the six and the calf—have been recently in contact with the whole of Kennedy's herd. They were not kept inside the shed until the disease broke out. Therefore it was fair to suppose that the whole of Kennedy's herd would be in the course of time infected with the disease, so that they had got to be prepared, if they recommended the slaughter of the healthy animals, to pay for the slaughter of the whole of Mr. Kennedy's herd. He should like Mr. Ladds to give them an explanation as to why he considered it necessary to slaughter the healthy animals instead of removing them and thus saving the cost of slaughtering them. He understood that they had to pay the full cost of a sound animal when it was slaughtered and half the cost of a diseased animal.

Mr. LADDS said that these animals were not running loose all over the place. They were in sheds and were kept there all the time. If the disease broke out in one shed there was no reason why it should go over the whole of the sheds.

Mr. OSBORNE—Are the cows always tied up in the shed?

Mr. LADDS—They are in loose boxes.

Dr. CLARK—Can Mr. Ladds tell us whether there is any communication between the cattle at Kennedy Street and at Causeway Bay. If there has been communication it seems to me we may expect the whole 31 to be infected.

Mr. LADDS thought there was no doubt there had been communication before they were aware of the existence of the disease.

Mr. OSBORNE said he did not like the idea of the colony paying Mr. Kennedy the value of the whole of his sound cattle. He thought they should first try to segregate the sound animals from the diseased ones and slaughter the diseased ones. It seemed to him that if the other cattle which were in the same shed as the diseased ones were taken a long distance away from the cattle in the other sheds there was no reason why the disease should break out among the rest of the herd.

The VICE-PRESIDENT was inclined to agree with Mr. Osborne. The Director of Public Works had mentioned that Mr. Kennedy had some land a considerable distance from this shed, and there was no reason on earth why he should not put up mat-sheds and remove his healthy cattle there.

Dr. CLARK said the first thing was to declare the shed infected, and he proposed that this be done.

The PRESIDENT seconded, and the motion was carried.

Dr. CLARK proposed that the six cows and the calf in the shed in question be slaughtered and the Council informed of the fact.

The PRESIDENT seconded.

The Hon. R. D. ORMSBY said that to be consistent with what he did at the last meeting he would move as an amendment that only the diseased cattle be slaughtered, and that Mr. Kennedy be advised to remove the healthy cattle as far as possible from the infected shed.

Mr. OSBORNE seconded.

Subsequently the Hon. R. D. Ormsby withdrew his amendment in favour of one proposed by the Vice-President, and seconded by himself, to the effect that only the diseased cattle be slaughtered and that Mr. Kennedy be advised to remove the 31 cattle in the infected area as far eastward as possible.

The amendment was carried.

On the motion of Mr. OSBORNE, seconded by PRESIDENT, it was decided to authorise the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon to slaughter the remaining four animals in the infected shed as soon as they show any symptoms of the disease.

This was all the business.

A meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held on the 16th March. The chair was occupied by the President (Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer), and there were also present the Vice-president (the Hon. F. H. May, Captain Superintendent of Police), Mr. E. Osborne, Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), and Mr. C. W. Duggan (Secretary).

THE NEW SECRETARY.

A letter was read from the Colonial Secretary's Office stating that His Excellency the Governor had been pleased to appoint Mr. C. W. Duggan secretary to the Board.

The PRESIDENT—Mr. Duggan, I compliment you on your appointment as secretary to this Board. I feel sure you will endeavour to bring to bear in the performance of your duties that application and devotion which always characterised your predecessor, Mr. McCallum.

Mr. DUGGAN—I thank you for the remarks you have made. I will endeavour to do my duty to the best of my ability.

CATTLE SHEDS.

Correspondence concerning the prohibition of cattle sheds within certain limits was submitted. It arose out of a paragraph which appeared in the report of the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon for 1898 which ran as follows:—Although as far back as 1889 I recommended that no cow sheds be licensed by the Board within the precincts of the city, I regret to note that nothing has been yet done to consider or carry out my suggestion." Mr. Ladds has defined the eastern boundary inside which no cattle sheds should be licensed as "A line drawn from No. 2 Police Station north and south."

The PRESIDENT said he visited the sheds in Kennedy Street (which are inside Mr. Ladds's boundary) with the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon two days ago. He must say that they scarcely appeared to him to be fit places for storing and collecting milk. The back premises were very dirty, and do what they would they could not get the Chinese tenants to keep them clean.

The VICE-PRESIDENT proposed that the recommendation of the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon be not adopted, and that the Sanitary Inspector of the district be instructed to devote special attention to the sheds in Kennedy Street and to take immediate action if they were found in an insanitary condition.

Dr. CLARK, in seconding, pointed out that the licenses for cattle sheds were issued on January 1st, and in consequence no reasonable action could be taken by the Board until the expiration of the present year. The matter might be brought up six months hence if necessary. In the meantime they could see that the sheds were kept in as sanitary a condition as possible.

Mr. OSBORNE proposed as an amendment that the matter be deferred two months, and that in the meantime the Board's inspectors be instructed to pay particular attention to these dairies, and that a sub-committee be appointed and empowered to confer with the cattle owners and obtain their views on the subject. If there was any truth at all in the assumption that milk was a constant source from which disease could be communicated to human beings, it was their duty to see that the milk supply of the colony was kept as pure as possible, and knowing as they did the dirty state in which Chinese kept their whole surroundings he thought they ought to endeavour to get the dairies away from the town altogether.

The PRESIDENT seconded and the amendment was carried.

Mr. Osborne, Dr. Clark, and Mr. Ladds were appointed the sub-committee.

THE PLAGUE.

The mortality returns for the colony of Hongkong for the week ended March 4th show a death, rate of 19.3, against 19.3 for the previous week and 22.2 for the corresponding week last year.

Mr. OSBORNE remarked that he thought there had been some cases of plague in the colony recently. He believed there were eight deaths during the week ended March 11th. He should like to ask how many deaths there had been from the 12th March to the present time, and also whether the provisions of sub-section 4 section 13. of Ordinance 24 of 1887 in regard to the cleansing and white-washing of houses was being strictly enforced. What

ever difference of opinion there might be as to the best means of preventing plague, he thought there could be but one opinion as to the absolute necessity of keeping the town clean. He thought it would be a good thing if the Board could be assured by some means that this law was being strictly and effectually and consistently carried out. He proposed that a return showing the number of tenements in each health district and the number of tenements lime-washed and cleansed up to the date of the report be supplied to the Board every fortnight.

The VICE-PRESIDENT seconded.

Dr. CLARK said that during the year there had been 17 cases of plague and 16 deaths. During the last two days there had been no cases reported. The map before him showed the actual position of each case. There was a small group in West Point—in the usual places. One, Two, and Third street,—there was a small group at East Point, and the rest were generally distributed. With regard to the lime-washing of premises, he thought Mr. Osborne had somewhat confused the bye-law made under the Ordinance of 1894, which provided for the lime-washing of premises by the officers of the Board during the prevalence of an epidemic and the Bye-law made under Ordinance 24 of 1837, which only provided that all tenement houses in the city should be lime-washed twice a year.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Griffiths, Acting British Consul at Tainan, wrote that the number of cases of bubonic plague reported in the prefecture from Feb. 21 to Feb. 27 was 23. There were 21 deaths and five recoveries. From Jan. 7 to Feb. 27 there were 145 cases; the deaths numbered 98 and the recoveries 17.

Mr. R. W. Hurst, British Consul at Pakhoi, writing on Feb. 27, said he was informed by Dr. Hill, one of the medical officers in charge of the Chinese Hospital there, that there were several sporadic cases of bubonic plague at that port, and that a few deaths had occurred. The malady had not so far assumed an epidemic form, being confined at present to one particular locality, and that a very dirty one. Should it assume alarming proportions he would communicate with the Board again.

A telegram, dated March 10, stated that plague had broken out in two Bengal villages, one in Faridpur and one in Dacca.

This was all the business.

RECONSTRUCTION OF THE SANITARY BOARD.

In view of the questions asked by the Hon. T. H. Whitehead at the last meeting of the Legislative Council concerning the reconstruction of the Sanitary Board, we republish the last two despatches on the subject:—

GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

(Government House,
Hongkong, 30th June, 1896

Sir,—I regret that I have once more to refer to you the question of the constitution of the Sanitary Board.

2.—From my previous despatches on this subject noted in the margin you will have gathered that I am strongly in favour of undivided responsibility in sanitary matters. With this object in view I recommended, in the first instance, that the Sanitary Board as at present constituted should be abolished and that the control of sanitary matters should be placed entirely under the control of Government. Afterwards, however, I informed you in my despatch No. 337 of 2nd December, 1895, that I was willing, in deference to the views of the majority of the unofficial members of the Legislative Council, to accept a compromise, according to which the Board would be constituted of 3 official and 2 unofficial members, though I was not satisfied that undivided responsibility would be secured under such an arrangement. The adoption of the proposed compromise having been sanctioned by you, an Ordinance embodying it was introduced into the Legislative Council. Before, however, it was read a first time it became evident that it would not prove acceptable to a portion of the British residents of this colony. In order to ascertain what might be the views of the British community, I suggested that a plebiscite should be taken. Arrangements were accordingly made, and a plebiscite of the British

community, exclusive of members of the Imperial and Civil Services, was held, the question submitted to the voters being whether the Sanitary Board should consist of a majority of officials or of unofficials. The result of the plebiscite was that 331 voted for an unofficial majority and 31 for an official majority. Among the former only three or four Chinese voted and among the latter none.

3.—From this plebiscite it appears that 331 British residents are in favour of a Board which should be controlled by unofficial members.

4.—In view of my previously expressed opinion on the importance of undivided responsibility in sanitary matters, it is hardly necessary for me to state that I am not in favour of a Board the responsibility of which will be divided and which will exercise its functions independently of Government control. Judging from the working of the present Board, which consists of an official and unofficial element, the latter of which preponderates, I consider that a mixed constitution, such as is now provided for, does not work well in practice and leads to constant friction. In fact, this seems to be not infrequently the result of attempts to graft on a Crown colony constitution popular institutions which do not appear suited to work smoothly or successfully under such conditions.

5.—After carefully considering the question of the constitution of the Sanitary Board, I am of opinion that in order to secure undivided responsibility the sanitary affairs of the colony should either be placed directly under Government control or should be entrusted to a Board composed entirely of unofficials.

6.—In view of the peculiar circumstances of Hongkong and of the fact that the population is chiefly made up of Chinese, who will be more easily and more effectively dealt with by Government than by a popularly constituted Board, I am in favour of sanitary affairs being placed directly under Government control and managed entirely by a Government department responsible to the Governor.

7.—The alternative—a Board composed entirely of unofficials—would not, I fear, work well in this colony, which, as Lord Ripon has pointed out, has become a Chinese colony under the British flag. Out of a population of 250,000, the Chinese amount to about 243,000, and it is with sanitation among the Chinese that a Board, whatever its constitution may be, must be chiefly concerned. Further, it would be extremely difficult to draw the line between matters which should come under the Government and the Sanitary Board, and this would most certainly lead to friction and misunderstanding. At the same time, it is easy to understand the desire of those who, having been accustomed to popular institutions in Great Britain, wish to extend similar institutions to this colony. But so long as Hongkong continues to retain its present character both as regards its constitution and its population, I do not think popular institutions would thrive under such unusual and peculiar conditions.

8.—After mature consideration of this difficult question, I am in favour of the Sanitary Board being placed directly under Government control in the manner proposed in my despatch No. 163 of the 18th May, 1895, but I have thought it right to place you in possession of the views held by others as well as my own, so that you may be in a position to consider both sides of the question before conveying to me your final decision in the matter.—I have the honour to be, Sir, Your most obedient, humble servant,

WILLIAM ROBINSON,
Governor.

The Right Honourable Joseph Chamberlain,
M.P., Her Majesty's Principal Secretary
of State for the Colonies, &c., &c., &c.

SECRETARY OF STATE TO THE GOVERNOR.

Downing Street, 6th November, 1896.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 150 the 30th of June last and of your telegram of the 27th ultimo on the subject of the Sanitary Board.

2.—I understand the Board, as at present constituted, to be working well, and I consider that the question of its future constitution may well stand over to be dealt with, if necessary, hereafter by your successor, who will be in a position to approach it *de novo* with the advantage of the

information which has already been gained on the subject.

3.—I have come to this conclusion in part because I think that, on reflection, you must concur with me that in taking a plebiscite of the British community exclusive of the members of the Government services the situation has been much complicated. I have every reason to assume that the British merchants and residents in Hongkong have the same good sense and public spirit as their countrymen elsewhere, but it is impossible that Hongkong should be other than a Crown colony; it is inconsistent with Crown colony government to seek the guidance of a plebiscite; and in no community whatever, whether Crown colony or not, can a satisfactory solution of a question, in which the whole body of the rate-payers and many outside that body are interested, be induced from an expression of the opinions of one section alone.

4.—In the present instance, the plebiscite having been held, you have found yourself constrained to advise a course opposed to that for which the very large majority of the votes were cast.

5.—Under existing circumstances, then, I have decided to defer giving any final decision. In the course of a year or so it will be more evident what, if any, is the real want, and how it may best be met.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

Governor Sir W. Robinson, K.C.M.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

DARING ROBBERY IN GLENEALEY.

A robbery of a most daring character was perpetrated in Glenealey in broad daylight on Tuesday, the victim being Mr. R. F. Gutierrez, an old gentleman 76 years of age. Mr. Gutierrez and his wife were coming down from Robinson road to Caine road, and when half-way down Glenealey two Chinamen who had been hiding in the locality sprang upon them unawares. One of them thrust some paper in Mr. Gutierrez' face and knocked him down, while the other snatched his watch and chain. They then made off. Mr. Gutierrez and his wife were naturally very much alarmed. Information was given to the police, but the ruffians are still at large.

COLONELCY OF THE VOLUNTEER CORPS.

LETTER FROM SIR WM. ROBINSON.

The following letter from Sir W. Robinson, G.C.M.G., Honorary Colonel, Hongkong Volunteer Corps, is published in the Volunteer weekly orders:—

28, Evelyn Mansions,
Carlisle Place, S.W.
31st January, 1899.

Dear Sir John Carrington,

Before leaving Hongkong, I omitted to place in your hands the Honorary Colonelcy of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps. I do so now. I trust you will convey to the Officers and men an expression of my thanks for the kindness and courtesy with which they always received me. I shall be most glad to hear of the further success of the Corps, and hope under your able command it will increase in numbers and efficiency.—Very truly yours,

(Signed) WILLIAM ROBINSON.

THE FIRE BRIGADE REPORT.

The report for 1898 of the Hon. F. H. May, Superintendent of the Fire Brigade, is published in the *Gazette*, from which we make the following extracts:—

There were 16 fires and 73 incipient fires during the year. The brigade turned out 23 times. The estimated damage caused by the fires was \$35,000.74 and by the incipient fires \$1,999.00.

The record for last year is the best in the series. The estimated value of property destroyed is less than \$3,000 more than the lowest recorded which was in the year 1891, while the number of fires was double the number in that year.

There was one prosecution for arson in connection with the incipient fire at No. 112, Third

Street. The accused, a Chinese woman, was discharged at the Criminal Sessions, being apparently not mentally responsible for her actions.

There was no loss of life at any fire. The water in the mains was not turned off at any time during the year, and none of the land engines were used at a fire.

During the year six shelters were built at convenient places in the city for the reception of a despatch box each. A certain number of Indian and Chinese Police Constables, not members of the Fire Brigade, have been trained in the use of the despatch box, and the beats on which the shelters are situated are assigned to these particular constables, who carry the keys of the shelters and are ready to render first aid at any fire occurring on their beats or in the immediate vicinity. The men receive a small monthly allowance for this additional responsibility. The idea of thus extending the use of the despatch box and of utilising the Police on beat duty for the purpose, is one that occurred to Mr. Wodehouse (as I have discovered from an old report of his) before it occurred to me. The system is capable of indefinite extension, and I am of opinion that the moral effect alone of the existence on the spot of appliances for first aid will be found to have a deterrent effect on incendiarism.

It was my intention to fix in the streets a few fire alarms of the usual type used at home, but on the suggestion of Mr. E. M. Hazeland, in charge of the Government Telephone Service, telephones connected with the Central Fire Station have been fixed instead at the back of the Harbour Office, at the junction of Hollywood Road and Queen's Road, and at the junction of Wilmer Street and Connaught Road. There has been as yet no opportunity to test the utility of these telephones, but I am in hopes that they many prove useful in speedily communicating alarms of fires to the Brigade.

The system requires careful watching and is capable of extensive development.

The increasing height of Chinese houses in the city and the great height of the buildings on the Praya render necessary a re-organisation of the ladder supply of the Brigade, and the subject is receiving my attention. The matter would be an easy one were it not for the obstruction caused by verandahs.

In the meantime it is well to warn the occupants of the upper stories of the blocks of new buildings on the Praya Reclamation that there is no fire escape in the colony and that they should provide themselves with some simple escapes such as the Amateur Dramatic Club have provided themselves with for use from the dressing rooms attached to the theatre.

The extension of the Central Fire Station has been completed and advantage has been taken of the additional accommodation to increase the permanent staff by 10 Chinese firemen, the services of the six soldiers who used to be on night duty being dispensed with. The soldiers used continually to be changed for various reasons and rarely had an opportunity of becoming really efficient firemen. The number of European firemen at the Station has also been increased, and the Station should be generally in a higher state of efficiency than was possible under the old conditions. It is certainly far more decent and comfortable for the men.

The conduct of the Brigade throughout the year has been very good, with one exception—that of a Chinese watchman who was convicted of larceny of a jacket from the scene of the fire at No. 2, West Street, on the 10th October, and sentenced to two months' hard labour.

M. Thomas Campbell, assistant engineer, who was connected with the Brigade for upwards of nine years, died at the end of 1897. Mr. Campbell was a very able and experienced officer and was a great loss to the Brigade. His post was filled during the year by Sergeant McLennan of the Police Force who fulfilled the duties in a satisfactory manner.

The return showing the number of cases of communicable disease notified as occurring in the colony last week is as follows:—Bubonic plague, 6 cases, 5 deaths, all in the city of Victoria; diphtheria, 1 case, in the city; enteric fever, 2 cases in the harbour and one at the Peak; smallpox, 3 cases, in districts other than city, and 2 deaths. One of the cases of smallpox was imported.

WATER RETURN.

LEVEL AND STORAGE OF WATER IN RESERVOIRS ON THE 1ST MARCH.

	LEVEL.	
	1898.	1899.
Tytam.....	18ft. 6in. below overflow	31ft. 1in. below overflow
Pokfulam 5ft. 2in. below overflow	33ft. 1 in. below overflow	

	1898.	1899.
Tytam	249,400,000	169,300,000
Pokfulam	54,740,000	4,200,000

Total 304,140,000 173,500,000

CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN THE CITY OF VICTORIA AND HILL DISTRICT DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY.

	1898.	1899.
Consumption ...	78,927,000	85,965,000 gals.
Estimated population	193,500	199,000

Consumption per head per day ... 14.5 15.4 gals.

CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN KOWLOON PENINSULA DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY.

	1898.	1899.
Consumption ...	5,491,000	4,474,000 gals.
Estimated population	25,400	26,600

Consumption per head per day ... 7.7 6.0 gals.

The Government Analyst reports that the water is of excellent quality.

The supply to Kowloon Peninsula was intermittent owing to scarcity of water.

R. D. ORMSBY,
Water Authority.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA, LIMITED.

On Saturday at noon the eighth ordinary annual general meeting of shareholders in the National Bank of China, Limited, was held at the offices of the Bank, Victoria Buildings. Mr. Chan Kit Shan occupied the chair, and there were also present Capt. Burnie, Messrs. D. Gillies, T. Lants, Chow Tung Shang, Kwan Hoi Cheun (directors), G.W.F. Playfair (chief manager), V. H. Deacon (solicitor), and a number of shareholders.

Mr. PLAYFAIR read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, in submitting to you the accounts for 1898, I would point out that we have simplified them so as to dispense with the adjusting account, which was not very intelligible to the ordinary shareholder and was a mere matter of account, being simply difference between the exchange values of the day and the par rate at which our various funds in other countries were formerly entered in our books. You will observe from the report now in your hands that, as we indicated last year, we have put all our profits to capital reserve fund—had we not done so we could have paid the same dividend as we paid in March, 1897. Capital reserve fund now stands at \$170,870.50, or over 74 per cent. on the capital. We have only now to place the further small sum of \$4,689.50 to that account and then the bulk of our earnings for 1899 will be available for dividend. As we have full employment for all our funds in Hongkong, and our funds having proved insufficient to work profitably the various branches, we have turned our branches at Amoy and Shanghai into agencies, which will enable us to show a considerable reduction in future in our charges account, which for 1898 is larger than usual owing to heavy legal expenses in Shanghai and expenses connected with closing our establishments in Amoy and Shanghai. Our business connections continue quite satisfactory. We have confidence in the future of the Bank and our prospects are more promising. Your directors, having agreed to the desirability of adding another British director to their number, have asked Mr. Burnie to join the Board. We trust this appointment meets with your approval. With these few remarks, gentlemen, I have to propose that the report and accounts as presented to you be adopted, but before doing so I will be happy to answer any questions which you may wish to ask.

No questions being asked, the report and accounts were passed on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. CHAN HI.

On the motion of Mr. J. R. MICHAEL, seconded by Mr. TERBY, it was resolved—That Mr. Lants and Mr. Kwan Hoi Chuen be re-elected directors on the Head Office Board and that Mr. Buttery be re-elected as a member of the London Committee.

On the motion of Mr. A. RAMJATHN, seconded by Mr. SUR-UN, it was resolved—That Messrs. J. H. Cox and W. Hutton Potts be elected auditors in Hongkong for the ensuing year at a remuneration of \$300 each, and that Messrs. Deloitte, Dever, Griffiths and Co. be elected auditors in London at a remuneration of twenty five guineas.

This was all the business.

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

The thirtieth ordinary meeting of shareholders in the China Fire Insurance Company, Limited, was held on 13th March at noon in the Company's Offices. Mr. N. A. Siebs presided, and there were also present:—Messrs. H. L. Dalrymple, A. McConachie, C. S. Sharp, A. Haupt, D. Gubbay (Directors), G. L. Tomlin (Acting Secretary), G. Sharp, Hon. H. E. Pollock, J. H. Cox, G. C. Cox, H. N. Mody, F. D. Guedes, A. Moir, E. Georg, J. R. Michael, C. N. Young, J. M. S. Alves, S. A. Joseph, B. M. Conceicao, and Chan Pat.

The ACTING SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the Report and Statement of the Company's Accounts having been in your hands for about four weeks you will no doubt allow them to be taken as read, and I will now proceed to make such comments on them as are called for. You will have noted with satisfaction that the profit of the year 1897 resulted in the Board being able to recommend the usual dividend of \$6 per share, absorbing \$120,000, the payment of \$4,379 to contributors of premia, and the carrying of the sum of \$56,972.10 to the credit of Extra Reserve Fund, the formation of which, as you will probably remember, was agreed to by Special Resolutions passed and confirmed this time last year, and its object, I might take this opportunity of reminding you, is to call in the aid of a profitable year to assist the out-turn of an unfortunate period and thus tend to equalize our Annual Dividends. The loss ratio for 1897 was 42.55 of our premiums as compared with 14.15 in 1896, when we were exceptionally fortunate. Turning to the Working Account of 1898 we much regret the small balance of \$120,486.20 carried forward. This is, however, entirely due to the heavy losses sustained at some of our agencies during the past year and not to any falling off in the Company's business; indeed, an increase is shown in this direction notwithstanding the heavy return of premia made when the Board decided to close the agency at Kobe, in which action the Directors hope that they have the support of shareholders. From all we hear the year 1898 has proved exceedingly disastrous to Fire Insurance Offices generally and it has not been the exception with us, but with average fortune we hope to meet you 12 months hence with the same dividend, with the aid of the Extra Reserve Fund, we now propose to provide. Since the closing of the accounts the losses on account of 1898 are \$7,016 to date and those for the current year are \$7,030, which we consider moderate. The Company's Surveyors have carefully examined and reported upon the properties in Hongkong under mortgage to us and the Board are perfectly satisfied with the security in each instance, and in this connection I may mention that since the accounts were closed we have sold the property known as Inland Lot No 685, which appears as a special item in the Balance Sheet, without any loss to the Company, and we are thus relieved of any further anxiety as landlords. Before asking you to adopt the Report and Statement of Accounts I should like to mention with much regret that last summer we were for the second time obliged to grant our Secretary, Mr. Jas. B. Coughtrie, sick leave under a medical certificate from the Company's doctors, and as his return to the East is not recommended on account of the unsatisfactory state of his health the Directors

would like to vote him a retiring allowance in view of his long and valuable services, which date back from early in 1871—a period of 28 years—and as this can be done without increasing the working expenses they trust that the proposal will meet with your approval. I should perhaps add that we have obtained the opinion of the Company's solicitors that it is within the powers of the Board to vote such a retiring allowance, but we preferred to wait for this annual meeting and consult the shareholders so that we could ascertain what we propose to do is agreeable to them. These are all the remarks I have to make and I will therefore conclude by moving: "That the Directors' Report and Statement of Accounts for the year 1898 as presented, and the retiring allowance of £400 per annum to Mr. Coughtrie be approved and adopted." After this has been seconded I shall be happy to reply to any questions that may be put relating to business before the meeting.

Mr. POLLOCK said—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I have very great pleasure in seconding the adoption of this report and these accounts, and also in seconding the motion made by the Chairman that a retiring allowance of £400 a year be made to Mr. Coughtrie. Perhaps, gentlemen, I may be permitted to take up your time just for a few minutes with reference to the last portion of the resolution. I may tell you, gentlemen, that I was for several months prior to Mr. Coughtrie's departure from the colony sitting at the same table with him at the Peak Hotel, and I am able to testify personally to the very great reluctance with which Mr. Coughtrie, under the strong advice he received from his medical adviser, decided to leave this colony, and I can also testify to the fact that the concerns of this Company occupied a very great share of his attention, and as I have said, it was only with the very greatest reluctance that he left this colony last year. (Hear, hear.) I think, gentlemen, that the fact that Mr. Coughtrie performed his duties so ably and steadily as Secretary for the term of twenty-eight years is deserving of some recognition at the hands of this Company. I think you will agree with me, therefore, that this retiring allowance ought to be granted to him. I think there are very few Insurance Companies in this colony which can show such a continual successful record as this Company has shown during the last twenty-eight years, and I think you will agree with me, therefore, that we are doing what is right in passing this vote. Unfortunately we cannot restore to Mr. Coughtrie the health which he has to a certain extent forfeited by his long residence in the Far East, but I think we ought to make this grant in order that we may alleviate for him as far as possible his labours and anxieties in the years that remain to him. (Applause.)

Mr. G. SHARP—May I, sir, be allowed to add my word to that of the Acting Attorney General. I have known this Company since its first day, and I have known Mr. Coughtrie during all the time he has been here. I think there is nothing which is more deeply impressed upon the minds of commercial men at the present time than the extraordinary market value of integrity combined with business ability. (Applause.) Some of you, like myself, have known Mr. Coughtrie during the whole of his time here. Some of us have been privileged also to enjoy the acquaintance of his amiable, interesting, and most accomplished family, and I think we shall all feel that anything which it is within the power of the Board and the shareholders to grant should be gladly granted to comfort and sustain him in his retirement.

Mr. Moby proposed that the appointment of Mr. A. McConachie as a Director be confirmed, and that Mr. C. S. Sharp be re-elected to the Board.

Mr. J. H. Cox seconded.

Carried.

Messrs. J. H. Cox and W. Hutton Potts were re-elected auditors on the proposition of Mr. G. SHARP, seconded by Mr. H. E. POLLOCK. This was all the business.

The following telegram dated Rangoon, 10th March, is published in the *Gazette*:—"Hong-kong declared infected port under Quarantine Regulations framed under Venice Convention for Bani ports. Request that shipping firms may be informed accordingly. Letter follows."

HONGKONG HOTEL COMPANY, LIMITED.

The ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders in the above Company was held at noon on the 14th March at the hotel, Mr. R. C. Wilcox occupied the chair, and there were also present Messrs. E. Osborne, W. Parfitt (directors), C. Mooney (secretary), W. H. Potts, J. H. Lewis, J. R. Michael, F. Henderson, F. D. Goddard, A. Denison, G. C. Cox, E. D. Sanders, R. S. Philpott, C. Gorg, J. E. Gomes, S. H. Michael, W. E. Clarke, T. Brown, J. Hooper, Ho Tung, Ho Fook, Lo Cheung Shui, Ip Chee Fong, Tai Tak, Ho Yam Nam, Hon Chok Teun, Wong Kam Fook, Leung King Shan, and Leung Tit Shan.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, following the usual practice here, I propose, with your permission, to take the report and statement of accounts as read. It is gratifying to the Board to be in a position to meet you with a statement so satisfactory as that presented to-day. The profit on the working account for the past six months, amounting to \$62,809 94, is the record showing for what we have always been accustomed to consider the lean half of the year—and a very lean half it has often been in past times. The dividend proposed—six per cent. for the half-year—makes, with that already paid for the first half of 1898, ten per cent. for the year, which I think you will agree is a not unsatisfactory return on your investment. We have decided to commence the formation of a reserve fund, and for this purpose have set aside \$15,000 as the first contribution to what we hope may soon become an important buttress to the concern. The usual sum of \$6,000 has been carried to repairs and renewals account, and we have written off \$8,448 88 from the value of furniture and fixtures, which will then stand in our books at \$95,000, by no means too high a rate, considering the extent of the renewals. Apart, however, from these results, I ought to mention that the cost of painting and repairing this great building from basement to roof and through the greater portion of the interior as well as the entire exterior, amounting to \$14,398 98, has come out of the profits of the half-year. This has been a special outlay, and will not have to be incurred again, let us hope, for several years. Adequate provision for the constant and efficient upkeep of the building must, however, be made. It would be the very falsest economy to allow the Hotel to fall into shabbiness or disrepair. The great aim of your directors, which they have kept constantly before them through all the years of adversity as well as during the more prosperous times that have lately dawned upon the Company, has been to make of this a first-class hotel in every sense of the term, and to maintain that reputation it is necessary that its appearance shall be good and attractive, its furnishings of the best, and its catering liberal and excellent. Therefore, gentlemen, we shall have to go on spending money, for though we have made great progress and have acquired many most necessary and desirable things, we still have wants, and among others is new furniture for most of the rooms in the old building. This we are getting by degrees, and expect in another twelve months to have the Hotel well furnished throughout; indeed, we shall not rest content until every room, corridor, and corner of the building is equipped in a style that will justify the reputation gained. By the removal of Messrs. Skott & Co. and the impending vacation of their offices in this building by Messrs. Gibb, Livingston & Co., we shall soon have at least a dozen more good rooms available for guests, and furniture for these has already been ordered and partly received. It will also then be practicable to make various improvements on the first floor. One such has just been effected by the equipment of a billiard room for the use of boarders and residents, which we trust will supply a want. The business of the Hotel has shown a steady increase in every department, the bars and billiard room have been well frequented, and we are pleased to see that the dining room is now so popular as a restaurant. The improvement of the service has occupied much attention, and efforts have been made by the Board to secure good Chinese

servants and, after training, to keep them, as frequent changes are fatal to efficient attendance. I am glad to say that a gratifying measure of success has attended these endeavours. Through the exercise of care and vigilance, the losses from bad debts have been brought to a minimum; and the stock of wines and stores has, by the same means, been kept in good order, to the prevention of waste or deterioration. The loan of \$500,000, which was called in by the Hong-kong Land Investment Company, was paid off on the 31st December and an overdraft arranged with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank at 6 per cent. per annum, until arrangements can be made for floating debentures. I think that is all I have to say now, gentlemen, but I shall be glad to answer any questions you may wish to put to me.

No questions being asked, the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report.

Captain GODDARD, in seconding, said he thought the shareholders must be pleased with the gratifying report before them. When they knew how the hotel had been kept up, when they knew that \$14,000 had been spent on the buildings and paid for out of the earnings this last half-year, everybody should feel satisfied. The hotel was very popular. The energy of the directors had been very conducive to the prosperity of the hotel.

On the motion of Mr. HO TUNG, seconded by Mr. PHILPOTT, Messrs. R. C. Wilcox and W. Parfitt were re-elected directors.

Messrs. W. H. Potts and W. H. Gaskell were re-elected auditors, on the motion of Mr. J. H. LEWIS, seconded by Mr. GEORGE.

The CHAIRMAN said there was one little matter which he wanted to bring before them before they parted. The auditors had applied for an increase in their remuneration. (Hear, hear.) The fees at present were very small—\$150 for the half year, and they had applied for it to be increased to \$200. The Board had no power to vary the remuneration. According to the Articles, that devolved upon the shareholders. Therefore it had to come before them. He had much pleasure in proposing that the remuneration of the auditors be raised from \$150 to \$200 each half year.

Mr. HO TUNG—Is that for the two or for the one?

The CHAIRMAN—It is for the two.

Mr. J. R. MICHAEL seconded and the motion was carried.

The CHAIRMAN said that dividend warrants would be ready that afternoon on application at the Secretary's office. He thanked the shareholders for their attendance.

Mr. HO TUNG said that before they parted the shareholders should pass a hearty vote of thanks to the directors and the general staff for the good management and the good report which had been put before them that day. (Hear, hear.) It was due to the energy and the untiring efforts of the directors and general staff that the hotel had been brought into its present state. (Hear, hear.)

The CHAIRMAN thanked them on behalf of himself and colleagues for the confidence placed in them. He trusted they would continue to deserve it.

THE PUNJOM MINING CO., LIMITED.

On the 15th March the second ordinary general meeting of shareholders in the Punjom Mining Company, Limited, was held at the office of the Company, No. 9, Praya Central. Mr. David Gillies presided, and there were also present Mr. J. H. Lewis and Capt. Burnie (directors), Messrs. J. B. Duncan (secretary), H. Wicking, G. C. Cox, W. H. Gaskell, S. B. Bhabha, F. J. V. Jorge, W. E. Clement, P. M. N. da Silva, E. W. Terrey, and Capt. Ellis.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the report having been in your hands for some days, with your permission we will consider it as having been read. Your directors are very much disappointed that they are not in a position to lay before you a more favourable report on the working of our mines during the past twelve months. We have done our utmost to accomplish the end we had in view, but so far success has not attended our endeavours. In the early part

of the year our hopes were buoyant with the fair prospect of being able to dispose of our concession on favourable terms, which would have given us a good price and admitted of our retaining one half interest in the property in fully paid up shares; but owing to adverse circumstances influencing the London market, our expectations in this direction were not realised. Since we met at our last annual meeting an immense amount of prospecting has been done with the view of finding a payable lode, but so far our efforts have not been altogether successful. We have cut several very promising looking bodies of stone, but in nearly every instance the lode proved to be of a very low grade, which would not pay the cost of passing it through the mill. You are all doubtless aware that the large body of payable ore found in the Jalis mine was practically worked out nearly two years ago, and since that time the mill has been kept going on the large heaps of headings left by the Chinese who, we have reason to believe, have mined in this part of the country for over one hundred and fifty years; during that period many thousand tons of stone after having been quarried were rejected and thrown into the neighbouring jungle, on account of the quartz being of too low grade to pay the expense of winning the gold by the primitive methods then in practice. These headings have kept the mill going for nearly two years, crushing from 2,000 to 2,500 tons and yielding a return of from 250 to 300 ounces of fine gold per month, representing a fair profit on the outlay, but when we take into consideration the large amount expended on Jalis Mine for prospecting, driving on the ore body, and sinking winzes, all with a view to prove the lode, it is somewhat discouraging to find at the end of the year that we have not yet located the true lode and that our financial returns show a debit balance on the year's working of \$19,840.98. I must, however, tell you, gentlemen, that gold mining in the State of Perak is a very difficult problem indeed. We are almost weekly discovering a most promising leader giving indication that we are in the immediate vicinity of gold bearing rock, but after driving a few feet further the indications become less pronounced and the leader pinches out and partially disappears. The whole of the country rock at Jalis from the 300 feet upwards is so much broken up and disturbed by volcanic eruption that no reliance can be placed on what in other spheres would be looked upon as well defined indications. Nevertheless, your Directors are convinced that we have good prospects of discovering in the near future a valuable mine at Punjom; gold is to be found all over the country and we may reasonably assume, more particularly if we take into consideration the good fortune they have met with at Raub, that success will yet attend our efforts in discovering the lode we have looked so long and so anxiously for. The working of the cyanide process during the past year has not been satisfactory owing to the tailings containing such a very large percentage of the decomposition products of the iron pyrites, rendering them impenetrable to the action of the cyanide. The only tailings we have had for some time to undergo the cyanide treatment are those got from the milling of the headings which have been exposed for a long period of years to the action of the weather causing an insoluble basic iron salt found to be most destructive of cyanide and making it comparatively useless in the extraction of gold. We have tried many experiments with the view of overcoming this serious difficulty but up to the present I regret to say with only partial success. We have now secured the services of a most able and enterprising Manager at the mines and the Board is confident that he will devote all his energy and ability to make Punjom a dividend paying mine. When Mr. Bailey was in Hongkong a short time ago with the object of consulting the Board on some important points connected with the development of our property, he submitted a short report on the probable value of the concession and I now embrace the opportunity of reading it to you. It is dated Pahang, 6th February, and runs as follows:—

Gentlemen, I am unable to present to you an annual report of the operations on your property for last year in such definite form or on such lines as I would be pleased to do, having been there but a little over three months of that

period. During this time I have devoted myself to getting an understanding of the general conditions existing at and about the mines from a commercial standpoint and in accordance with your instructions, as I have understood them, have carried on prospecting work as rigorously as seemed at all practicable or possible consistent with a judicious expenditure of money and with reasonable economy. As you have been advised this prospecting has not been productive of any definite results one way or the other, nor could it have been expected to be unless we had been favoured by most exceptional good fortune during that brief period. The details of the work done have been fully reported from time to time so I will not go into the particulars thereof now. From what has been done heretofore, what I have been able to do, and so far as I am able to judge of the property from surface working, explorations by the natives, and such other indications as there are to guide an expert in forming an opinion I can only say definitely, as is already well known, that a considerable extent of our territory is gold bearing beyond a doubt, that there are well defined lodes existent in it, and that the geological formation of the country being slate and porphyry for the most part, is perhaps the most favourable of any formation for the existence of payable gold lodes, it cannot but be more than probable that in the large area of land owned by the Punjom Company there will be found not only a lode but more likely several lodes of payable value. These however can only be brought to light by pursuing our present policy of activity, and assiduously searching and prospecting for them." Gentlemen, I think we have no reason to call in question the *bona fides* of our Manager; in my opinion this is a straight-forward and unbiassed report on our concession which is full of hope and promise to shareholders. It gives me much pleasure to inform you that our new lease of the Punjom Concession was prepared on the 12th day of September last, between the British Resident on behalf the Sultan of Pahang on the one part and the Punjom Gold Mining Company on the other part for a term of fifty years dating from April, 1898. The area granted is fifty square miles, being ten miles long and five miles wide, with the length running on the lay of the gold bearing country rock. The lease provides that the company has full mining rights over the whole area granted together with ample timber rights. The deed was executed by the company on the 13th September 1898, and subsequently completed by the Resident and a copy is kept among the archives of the company's head office. Mr. Duncan, Secretary, is desirous of taking a trip home on account of family affairs, and the Board has granted leave of absence for eight months. Mr. Gaskell has consented to take up the secretary's duties during his absence.

No questions being asked the report and statement of accounts were adopted, on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. COX.

Messrs. Gillies and Lewis were re-elected directors, on the motion of Mr. WICKING, seconded by Mr. BHABHA.

Captain ELLIS proposed that Messrs. W. H. Gaskell and F. Henderson be re-elected auditors.

Mr. CLEMENT seconded.

Mr. COX—I think you informed us that Mr. Gaskell was going to act as secretary. We have all great confidence in Mr. Gaskell, but as a matter of principle it is not the correct thing for a secretary to audit his own accounts.

The SECRETARY—He won't audit his own accounts.

Mr. WICKING—I think everybody will be satisfied to see Mr. Gaskell occupy the dual position. I am sure I am.

The motion was carried.

The CHAIRMAN said they would notice from the report that Mr. Loxley was about to leave the colony and had resigned his seat on the Board. They found it a little difficult to get a successor to Mr. Loxley, and he took that opportunity of asking the shareholders present if there was any one they could recommend to be put upon the Board or whether they would leave it to the Board. Of course if the company were in a flourishing condition there would be very little diffi-

culty in getting a suitable director. However, he thought their prospects were never brighter than they were at present. They had got a very energetic manager, who was doing everything in his power to develop the property, and from the little information he gained from him while he was here he had every reason to believe that in a very short time they would hear some statement which he trusted would be very satisfactory to all of them. (Hear, hear).

Mr. WICKING thought that with regard to the appointment of a fresh director it was quite unnecessary for the shareholders to do anything. He thought it was far better to leave the matter in the hands of the Board. They had absolute confidence in them, and he was sure that in the future as in the past they would do the very best they could for the company. They had had years of trial and anxiety, but Messrs. Gillies and Lewis continued to favour them by retaining their seats on the Board. He was sure they were under very great obligations to them. The past year's working had been somewhat unfortunate, but everybody who took up shares must be prepared to run some risk. He felt that the directors of that company had certainly earned their most cordial thanks for the manner in which they had endeavoured to develop the property. Personally he had very great pleasure in thanking them for their services. (Hear, hear).

The CHAIRMAN said that on behalf of himself and his co-directors he begged to thank Mr. Wicking most sincerely and most heartily for the very feeling and kindly manner in which he had referred to their services. He could assure them that in the future they would do their very best to place the Punjom Mine in a better and dividend-paying position. They had of course been all along endeavouring to do that; but as he had already stated their hopes were brighter now, and there was a prospect that when they next saw their report it would be looked upon as very much more satisfactory than those which had preceded it.

This was all the business.

THE HONGKONG ROPE MANUFACTURING CO., LIMITED.

On 15th March at noon the 15th annual ordinary meeting of shareholders was held at the Company's office, No. 9, Praya Central. Mr. R. Shawan presided, and there were also present Messrs. D. Gillies, J. H. Lewis, A. J. Raymond (directors), O. P. M. N. da Silva (Secretary), A. Babington, W. H. Gaskell, F. Henderson, and Fung Wah Chuen.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, you are familiar with the report and accounts, which have been in your hands for some time past, so unless you wish me to do so, I will not read them now. As usual we propose to pay a dividend of 20 per cent, and we also recommend placing \$38,780 to reserve, which will bring that fund up to \$50,000, and I trust this course will meet with your approval. The result, as stated in the report, is a record one, but it has been obtained more perhaps by luck than by good management, and it is by no means certain that with the present troubled political outlook in the Philippines we shall be able to repeat such a performance this year; on the contrary, it is I fear very unlikely. At the present moment, our advices from Manila are to the effect that the hemp ports are all closed, and that such hemp as we require cannot be got at any price. We were fortunate last year in having made forward purchases of hemp at low prices, but lately the price of the raw material has been so high, that we have bought no more than was absolutely necessary for our current requirements, and consequently we have only a small stock on hand at the moment. As regards sales, we fully expected that high prices of rope would check consumption, but in spite of this and of our increased output, we have succeeded so far in finding markets for it all, and can only hope that this satisfactory state of things may continue. As the remaining portion of Inland Lot No. 906 on which our factory stands, was in the market, and its purchase by others would have shut us in, and prevented any further extension of the works in the future, it was decided to buy it for the

Company, and utilise a part of it in the meantime by building another godown for hemp, &c. This explains the item of \$30,504.30 in the balance sheet. The item of \$4,658.28 additional machinery, simply completes the extensions decided upon in the previous year. The other items are the usual ones, and require no explanation, but if any shareholder has any questions to ask, I shall be glad to answer them to the best of my ability.

No questions were asked, and the report and statement of accounts were adopted, on the motion of the CHAIRMAN seconded by Mr. FUNG WAH CHUEN.

Messrs. Gillies, Lewis, Raymond, and Shewan were re-elected directors, on the motion of Mr. HENDERSON, seconded by Mr. FUNG WAH CHUEN.

Messrs. T. Arnold and F. Henderson were re-elected auditors on the motion of Mr. GILLIES, seconded by Mr. RAYMOND.

The CHAIRMAN said that this was all the business, and that dividend warrants would be ready to-day.

CHINA AND MANILA STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

On the 16th March the 16th ordinary general meeting of shareholders in the above Company was held at the Company's Office, No. 9, Praya Central. Mr. R. Shewan occupied the chair, and there were also present Messrs. N. A. Siebs, D. Gillies, J. H. Lewis (directors), W. H. Gaskell, A. Babington, J. McGregor Forbes, A. P. Baretto, W. Stopani (secretary), and Fung Wah Chuen.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen, the printed report and accounts have been in your hands for some time past and need not be read now. During the year under review we have parted with the s.s. *Zafiro*, which was a good boat for the company in her day, but latterly had become rather a weight on our minds, as her small carrying capacity placed her at a great disadvantage in competition with the other boats on the line. We were very glad indeed when the opportunity presented itself of disposing of the boat at a favourable price, and have every confidence that her successor, which we have named the *Diamante*, will prove well adapted to the requirements of the line and enable us to retain the position we have always occupied in the Manila trade. As the net result of the sale is that we have got rid of an old boat of small capacity for one of the most modern type and large carrying capacity, both as regards cargo and passengers, we have not shown any actual profit in dollars in the profit and loss account, but have written off the difference from the book value of the *Esmeralda* and *Diamante*, which, after payment of the final instalment of the cost of the *Diamante*, will then stand at a little more than \$30,000—a very safe and moderate valuation for two such steamers. Against this we propose to raise the capital to \$300,000, by the issue of 1,000 shares of \$50 each in payment of a scrip dividend, the last instalment paid on the *Diamante* having used up all our funds and left nothing available for a dividend in cash. We trust this proposal will meet the views of shareholders. The simplest and best way would be to pass the dividend this year, but we find there is a strong feeling in favour of a dividend in some shape or form being paid, and this is the only shape it can take under the circumstances. Owing to the war between the United States and Spain and subsequent political troubles in the Philippines, the year was a troublesome one for this Company, and we are pleased to have come out of it so well. At present, as you know, affairs are in a very unsettled state over there; no produce is coming down from the country to the shipping ports, and cargo is consequently very scarce. On the other hand labour for loading and discharging and boat hire, etc., is almost unobtainable and when procurable only at exorbitant rates. Prospects for the present year cannot therefore be termed very bright just now, but of course this state of things will not last for ever. You must, however, bear in mind that with the general rise in the cost of living which has taken place in this colony our steamers' running expenses have correspondingly advanced. Wages of captains, officers, and engineers, for

instance, are just about double what they were when this company was started; coals cost fifty per cent more, and stores from home with the fall in exchange have doubled their cost in dollars. It follows that to pay our old dividends we must earn nearly double as much freight and passage money as we used to do, and this is no easy matter, especially with increased competition on the line. However, with the advent of a strong and stable Government in the Philippines, capital and enterprise must be attracted thither, and Hongkong will doubtless reap the benefit in renewed activity and increase of trade between the two places. I do not think there is anything in the accounts that requires special comment or explanation. In addition to the dividend we propose to place \$5,000 to reserve fund, in accordance with the Articles of Association, leaving \$407.27 to be carried forward to this year. The amount at credit of underwriting account is very little more than for the previous year, as a claim in consequence of a fire on board the *Esmeralda* just about absorbed the premia for the year. The items against sundry creditors and sundry debtors have since been respectively paid off and collected, while the funds at the Bank and invested in shares on 31st December last have now been reduced by further payments on account of cost of new steamer. There is nothing else that occurs to me to remark upon, but if there are any points that are still not clear to you I shall be glad if you will mention them before I proceed to move the adoption of the report and accounts.

No questions being asked, the report and accounts were adopted, on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. LEWIS.

Messrs. Gillies, Siebs, Lewis, and Shewan were re-elected on the Consulting Committee, on the motion of Mr. MCGREGOR FORBES, seconded by Mr. FUNG WAH CHUEN.

Messrs. J. H. Cox and Thos. Arnold were re-elected auditors, on the motion of Mr. BARETTO, seconded by Mr. SIEBS.

This was all the business.

GEO. FENWICK & CO., LIMITED.

The annual meeting of Geo. Fenwick and Co., Limited, was held on Saturday at the Hongkong Hotel. There were present Messrs. A. Rodger (Chairman), W. Parlance (Director), W. G. Winterburn (Manager), R. C. Wilcox, and G. C. Cox.

The MANAGER read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen, the report and statement of accounts have been in your hands for some days, so with your permission we will take them as read. Your Directors and Manager hope that you will consider the results of the year's working and the division of profits satisfactory. I am sorry to say we had rather a slack time during the months of April and May, caused by political troubles and the war in the Philippines, but since the month of June we have had work enough on hand to keep all the departments fully employed. The new machinery and tools added during the year, and other improvements now in use at the works, enable your Company to take larger jobs on hand than they were in a position to do formerly, and you will be glad to learn that we are now turning the work out quicker and at a less cost. I do not think I need say anything regarding the accounts, as they are very clearly detailed in the statement laid before you. The European staff deserve a word of praise for the good services they have rendered the Company during the year. I am pleased to say that the returns for the months of January and February have been very good. You will be pleased to learn that at present all the departments are fully employed, and our prospects for the first half of the year are very promising. I think, gentlemen, that is all I can say that will interest you, but before proposing the adoption of the report and statement of accounts, I shall be pleased to answer to the best of my ability any questions you may think fit to ask.

Mr. WILCOX—I see, Mr. Chairman, you are transferring \$3,000 to the reserve fund and carrying forward the large balance of \$19,576.63. You do not think it advisable to place more to the reserve fund, I suppose?

The CHAIRMAN—Well, we talked that over and we thought it was six of the one and half-

a-dozen of the other. Of course the money is used by the Company and it does not matter very much.

Mr. WILCOX—Of course if you are using the money it does not matter very much, but I should like to see the reserve fund accumulative. It is always a good thing to have a good, substantial reserve.

The CHAIRMAN—We will attend to that next year. Of course it is all the same.

Mr. PARLANE—The amount carried forward is only a couple of hundred dollars over last year's sum. We can use the amount carried forward for anything that is necessary. The reserve fund cannot be used for any purpose.

The CHAIRMAN—I beg to propose the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. WILCOX—Mr. Chairman, I have much pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report and accounts. I think they are very satisfactory, considering that, as the Chairman has said, the profit had to be made in one portion of the year. Of course this interruption to business caused by the hostilities in the Philippines was quite unforeseen and unpreventable. I hope we shall have as good a year this year as we had in 1897, which was a very good year, but in any case I do not think shareholders will have any reason to grumble at the dividends or the results. I have great pleasure in seconding the report.

The motion was carried.

On the motion of Mr. COX, seconded by Mr. WILCOX, Mr. Rodger was re-elected a director for the ensuing year.

Mr. Thos. Arnold was re-elected auditor, on the motion of Mr. PARLANE, seconded by Mr. COX.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, that is all the business. I thank you for your attendance. Dividend warrants will be sent out on Monday.

CHINA SUGAR REFINING CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the twenty-first annual general meeting, to be held at the offices of the general agents, at noon on Thursday, 23rd March:—

The general agents beg to submit to shareholders their report on the company's business for the year 1898, with a statement of accounts to the 31st December last.

The refineries were profitably employed during the year, and inclusive of \$13,753.31 brought forward from 1897, the net gain on working amounts to \$614,360.15, of which sum \$100,000 was paid as an interim dividend on the 26th August last.

The General Agents and Consulting Committee recommend the following appropriation of the profits, viz:—

Interim dividend of \$5 per share paid 26th August,	\$ 100,000.00
To apply to Reduction of Property Account,	75,000.00
To apply to Equalization of Dividend Fund,	160,000.00
Bonus to Staff,	12,000.00
Final dividend of \$12 per share,	240,000.00
Carry forward to next account,	27,360.15
	\$ 614,360.15

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

The Consulting Committee consists of the Honourable E. R. Pellicios, Messrs. F. A. Gomes, David Gubbay, A. Haupt, and A. G. Wood, who offer themselves for re-election. Mr. A. G. Wood was invited to join the Board in place of Mr. C. S. Sharp, who resigned owing to his intended departure from the colony.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. Thomas Arnold and Fullerton Henderson, who offer themselves for re-election.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,
General Agents.

Hongkong, 11th March, 1899.

BALANCE SHEET—ONE YEAR—TO 31st DECEMBER, 1898.	
CAPITAL AND LIABILITIES.	
Paid-up capital	2,000,000.00
Equalization of dividend fund	140,000.00
Sundry creditors	2,711,649.98

Balance of profit and loss account	\$614,360.15
Less—Interim dividend at \$5 per share paid on 26th August, 1898	100,000.00
	514,360.15
	\$5,366,010.11

ASSETS.	\$	c.
Property account, consisting of:—		
East Point refinery		
Bowrington refinery		
Swatow refinery	1,560,427.37	
Hongkong distillery		
Site at So-kun-poo		

Cash	1,520.56
Raw and refined sugar, &c.	947,747.64
Spirits and rum, &c.	5,266.82
Charcoal, coal, stores, &c.	275,296.60
Sundry debtors	163,688.26
Shipments	\$3,441,318.70
Less advance	1,029,255.84
	2,412,062.86
	\$5,366,010.11

PROPERTY ACCOUNT.	\$	c.
To balance at debit on 31st December, 1897	\$1,606,493.81	
Less written off last year	75,000.00	
	1,531,493.81	
New buildings and machinery	28,933.56	
	\$1,560,427.37	

To balance at date	1,560,427.37
	\$1,560,427.37

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.	\$	c.
Dr.		
To commissions	35,030.34	
To remuneration to consulting committee	2,500.00	
To auditors' fees	750.00	
To interest account	85,931.75	
	74,212.09	

To interim dividend at \$5 per share paid on 26th August, 1898	100,000.00
	174,212.09
To net balance	514,360.15
	\$688,572.24

Cr.	\$	c.
By balance of profit and loss account, carried from last year	13,752.31	
By gain on working	674,819.93	
	\$688,572.24	

LUZON SUGAR REFINING CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the seventeenth ordinary annual meeting to be held at the offices of the General Agents, at 12.30 p.m. on Thursday, 23rd March:—

The General Agents beg to submit to shareholders their report on the business of the Company during the year 1898, with a statement of accounts to 31st December last, which they regret should be unsatisfactory.

In consequence of the disturbed state of affairs in the Philippines, work was suspended at the refinery during the greater portion of the year, and beyond supplying the limited local demand for refined sugar, no profitable outlet could be found for stocks on hand.

Inclusive of \$5,900.31 brought forward from the year 1897 the net loss on working amounts to \$9,819.06, which is carried forward to the current year.

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

The Consulting Committee consists of Messrs. D. Gillies and J. H. Lewis, who offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITOR.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. Thomas Arnold, who offers himself for re-election.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,

General Agents.

Hongkong, 11th March, 1899.

CAPITAL ACCOUNT, 31st DECEMBER, 1898.	\$	c.
LIABILITIES.		
Capital account	700,000.00	
Jardine, Matheson & Co.'s current account	113,760.12	
Sundry creditors	1,623.16	
	\$815,383.28	

ASSETS.	\$	c.
Property account	632,142.43	
Refined sugar	43,564.23	
Raw sugar	35,673.43	
Coal, charcoal, stores, mat bags, &c.	53,732.48	
Cash	4,262.31	
Fire insurance	82.23	
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation	26,555.09	
Sundry debtors	9,551.12	
	805,563.32	

Balance at debit of profit and loss account	9,819.06
	\$815,383.28

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.	\$	c.
To interest	8,367.69	
To Manila agents' commission	1,473.16	
To auditor's fee	150.00	
To loss on working	6,983.67	
	\$16,974.52	

	\$	c.
By balance from last year	5,900.31	
By exchange	1,254.25	
By balance	9,819.96	
	\$16,974.52	

THE GREEN ISLAND CEMENT CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the tenth ordinary general meeting to be held at the office of the general managers on Wednesday, 22nd March, at noon:—

Annexed we have the pleasure to lay before shareholders a statement of the Company for the year ended 31st December, 1898.

The net profit, including the amount brought forward from the previous year, amounts to \$5,317.44, which it is proposed to carry forward to the credit of next year's account. It has been decided to recommend this course instead of paying a dividend, as usual, as the building of the new factory at Hok Un is absorbing all the Company's present funds and it is hoped in this way to avoid having to raise further capital. So far as can now be seen the original estimates of cost will not be exceeded but there will be no surplus, while on the other hand money will of course be required for working capital and for carrying larger stocks of raw material and finished cement in future.

Sales during the year show a falling off but rather better prices were obtained, and the result is therefore very little less than that of the previous twelve months. After many trials and disappointments all the difficulties in the way of burning the new kiln at Green Island were overcome, and as anticipated the kiln has proved a decided acquisition. The contractor for the Works at Hok Un has not made the progress we expected but we hope that September will see everything there ready for commencing operations. At Deep Water Bay the work has suffered greatly from sickness and mortality amongst the employees and from the consequent changes in the staff, &c. The profit is still very small but much time has been given to re-organizing and increasing the plant and machinery, improving the site, economising labour, &c., the benefit of all of which is already felt in a considerably larger output.

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

Messrs. Ewens, Orange, Li Sing, Chater, and MacEwen retire but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. Jas. H. Cox and F. Henderson who are recommended for re-election.

SHEWAN, TOMES & Co.

General Managers.

Hongkong, 11th March, 1899.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, 31st DECEMBER, 1898.	\$	c.
Interest	7.72	
Amount transferred from bad and doubtful debts	372.20	
Consulting Committee's fee	1,500.00	
Auditors' fees	400.00	
Depreciation for 1898	13,752.38	
Balance	50,317.44	

Balance from 1897	240.91
Dividend on 10,000 new shares returned by General Managers	2,604.17
Exchange	85.38
Balance of Green Island working account	62,000.78
Balance of Deep Water Bay working account	14 8.56
	\$66,349.80

BALANCE SHEET.

CAPITAL—	\$	c.
20,000 shares at \$10 fully paid up	200,000.00	
399 shares at \$2.50	997.50	
29,150 shares at \$5	145,750.00	
405 shares at \$10 paid up	4,050.00	
	150,797.50	
Reserve fund	850,797.50	
Due to General Managers	171,797.50	
Due to bankers	2,114.45	
Debentures drawn but not presented	131.8 9.68	
Sundry creditors	600.00	
Balance of profit and loss account	23,340.56	
	50,317.44	
	\$730,287.13	

ASSETS.	\$	c.
Green I-land, Macao—		
Buildings and machinery, as per last statement	181,800.00	
New machinery	11,615.38	
	193,415.38	

Less depreciation	11,915.38	
	181,500.00	

Cement, raw material, &c. in stock	126,815.93	
Cement on consignment	11,304.00	
Expended on new kiln and dryer to date	2,468.31	

Hok Un, Hongkong—		
Expended on new works to date	300,830.62	

Deep Water Bay, Hongkong—		
Cost of land, buildings, machinery, &c. as per last statement	29,050.00	

New coolie quarters	748.00	
	29,798.00	

Less depreciation	1,798.00	
	28,000.00	

Bricks, pipes, &c. in stock	28,438.72	
Bricks, pipes, &c. on consignment	748.41	
Expended on new kilns to date	3,958.68	

Furniture, as per last statement	600.00	
New furniture	9.00	
	609.00	

Less depreciation	29.00	
	570.00	

Sundry debtors	43,914.70	
Cash, head office	1,112.76	
	\$730,287.13	

CLIVE'S FREEHOLD MINES, LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the third ordinary annual general meeting, to be held at the Registered Offices of the Company, 38 and 40, Queen's Road Central, on Saturday, 18th March, at noon:—

Gentlemen,—We beg to lay before you the report and statement of accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1898, which, including a balance of \$26,241.15 brought forward from 1897, show a balance at debit of working account of \$40,671.41.

The Eureka Main Shaft.—Driving North and South at the 150 feet, 200 feet and 300 feet levels has been carried on during the year and good progress has been made. Intermediate levels below the 200 feet have also been started with satisfactory results. The stopes above the 150 feet and 200 feet levels have continued to yield ore of good quality, but at the 300 feet level so far only stone of low grade has been met with.

B. Shaft.—A new shaft has been sunk 500 feet North of the Eureka Main Shaft, a depth of 136 feet has been attained, corresponding with the 150 feet level in the Main Shaft, and driving to cut the reef at this point is now in progress.

The Battery has been in full work all the year except when stopped for want of water, and is in good order. The machinery and plant generally are in good working order.

Water Supply.—Owing to continued drought the water in the dams completely gave out and the battery was hung up from the middle of

May till the end of June. Advantage was taken of this to dredge and enlarge the old dam and to construct a large new dam, giving us a greatly increased storage capacity.

During the year 6,383 tons of ore have been mined and milled, realizing 2,367 ozs. 6 dwts. retorted gold.

AUDITOR.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. W. H. Potts, who offers himself for re-election.

JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & SON,
General Managers.

Hongkong, 8th March, 1899.

BALANCE SHEET, FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1898.

LIABILITIES		\$	c.
Capital account—			
15,000 A shares at \$5	\$75,000.00		
200 B shares at \$5	1,000.00		
44,800 B shares at \$3.50	\$156,800		
Less unpaid calls on			
1,405 shares at \$1	1,405		
	155,395.00		
	231,395.00		
Accounts payable	16,018.05		
	\$247,413.05		
ASSETS		\$	c.
Cost of Olivers property	\$50,000.00		
Cost of Eureka mine	35,000.00		
	\$85,000.00		
Eureka main shaft	32,397.04		
Gold lots 105 and 308	4,279.19		
Works, buildings, and fixed plant	35,041.84		
Development	14,666.00		
	171,383.87		
Live stock	733.76		
Stores on hand and stock of fuel at			
Battery	1,857.95		
Movable plant	2,437.98		
	5,029.69		
Cash in Hongkong & Shanghai Bank	\$7,824.12		
Cash in hand	101.62		
Cash at call	5,000.00		
Gold in transit	16,482.97		
	29,408.71		
Accounts receivable	919.37		
Balance at debit of working account	40,671.41		
	\$247,413.05		
WORKING ACCOUNT.		\$	c.
1st Jan., 1898	Dr.		
To balance brought forward	26,241.15		
31st December.			
To cost of mining, transport to mill and milling	87,105.77		
To general charges in Australia	2,600.6		
To travelling expenses and telegrams	3,075.12		
To application fees and rent of gold leases	774.95		
To Australian management and salaries	6,730.10		
To General Managers' and auditor's fees	3,100.00		
To office charges	526.63		
To exchange	265.65		
	\$130,419.73		
31st Dec., 1898.	Cr.		
By gold account, proceeds of gold won	39,239.01		
By rent of cottages and incidental receipts	254.96		
By interest	216.35		
By transfer fees	38.00		
By balance—			
Stock of ore on hand at mine and			
mill 105 tons at 25s.—£131 5s. \$1,326.87			
Difference	39,334.54		
	40,671.41		
	\$130,419.73		

THE YAH LOONG COTTON SPINNING COMPANY, LIMITED.

The third ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of this Company was held at the offices of the General Managers, Messrs. Fearon, Daniel & Co., Shanghai, on the 7th March. Mr. J. S. Fearon presided and there were present Messrs. A. Werth, J. Liddell, and Wong Kiah-zur (directors), H. W. Daniel, E. L. Collingwood, H. A. Figueiredo, G. Galles, C. W. Wrightson, J. B. Walsh, and Ah Ee.

The Secretary (Mr. C. W. Wrightson) having read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman said—Gentlemen, the report and accounts having been in your hands for some days, I presume you will agree that these be accepted as if read. The second ordinary meeting of the Company was held on the 28th October, but in order to conform to the Articles of Association, it was necessary to make up the accounts to the end of the year, and therefore the report now in your hands covers a period of but five months. The result of our working during this interval has not been as satisfactory as we had hoped, owing to the stoppage of almost half of the spindles, necessitated by the alterations that were essential in order to carry

out the work for the increase of the number of spindles to 20,000. The Directors are greatly disappointed at the non-receipt of the machinery on the date promised by the makers, but a large proportion of it has now arrived, and is being erected, and our manager hopes to have the whole of it working by the end of April. At our last meeting the Chairman stated that there was every prospect of cotton being procurable at reasonable prices during this season, and this was the general expectation. A combination among native speculators has now resulted in forcing up prices materially, and China cotton is consequently today the dearest staple in the world. The native "ring" will, however, most certainly fail in their efforts to force the foreign-owned mills to buy at their prices, as it is generally understood that large supplies of Indian cotton are now on their way here; and for our own part we are well supplied with sufficient cotton, bought at much below present prices here, to last us until well into the summer months. The price of yarn, though much below that current a year ago, seems to be steadily improving, and the local spinnings are gaining in popularity, so that with fairly good fortune, we hope to be able to meet you here a year hence with a much more satisfactory report than we now present. If the shareholders have any questions to ask I shall be pleased to answer them.

No questions being submitted,

The Chairman moved that the adoption of the report and accounts, made up to the 31st of December last, be approved and passed.

Mr. J. Liddell seconded and the motion was unanimously carried.

Mr. G. Galles proposed that the election of Mr. J. S. Fearon as Director of the Company be confirmed.

Mr. E. Collingwood seconded and this was agreed to.

Mr. J. B. Walsh proposed the reappointment of Mr. Crawford D. Kerr as auditor for the ensuing year.

Mr. Fearon seconded and the resolution was unanimously agreed to.

This concluded the business.

The following is the report presented to the meeting:—

The Directors now submit their report together with the accounts of the Company for the five months ending 31st December, 1898, the closing of the accounts to this date being in accordance with the Articles of Association.

The Directors feel there is not much to add to their report which was issued on 15th October, 1898. The production was necessarily greatly curtailed owing to the extensive alterations that have been made and which were essential in order to bring the Mill into the condition it is rapidly approaching of being second to none in earning capacity. The new spindles are in course of erection and by the end of April, it is hoped, will all be running.

DIRECTORS.

Mr. J. S. Fearon resumed his seat on the Board on his return from home, and his appointment now requires confirmation.

AUDITOR.

Mr. Crawford D. Kerr again offers his services.

J. R. TWENTYMAN, } Directors.
JOHN LIDDELL,
FEARON, DANIEL & Co.,
General Managers.

Shanghai, 21st February, 1899.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, 31st DECEMBER, 1898.

	Dr.	Tls.	Tls.
To balance at 31st July, 1898	30,849.27		
To agency expenses	1,566.66		
To directors' and auditor's fees	1,145.65		
To interest	8,245.39		
		41,806.97	
Loss on working account		2,358.26	
		11s. 44,065.23	
Cr,		Tls.	Tls.
By transfer fees		12.62	
By balance		44,052.61	
		11s. 44,065.23	

BALANCE SHEET, 31st DECEMBER, 1898.

	LIABILITIES	Tls.	Tls.
Capital	750,000.00		
Less unissued shares	178,400.00		
		571,600.00	

Overdraft at bankers	241,700.87
Sundry creditors	5,194.75

Tls. 318,495.62

	ASSETS.	Tls.
Property.....		110,184.33
Buildings.....		192,855.41
Machinery.....		327,784.80
Furniture.....		1,322.40
Mill extension.....		19,985.32
Value of stock—		
Yarn.....	58,016.05	
Cotton in process.....	4,629.62	
Cotton.....	25,714.92	
Cotton waste.....	826.09	
Coals.....	3,407.50	
Mill stores.....	14,255.52	
		106,849.61
Unexpired fire insurance.....		4,712.61
Sundry debtors.....		10,612.47
Balance of profit and loss account.....		44,952.61

Tls. 318,495.62

THE FOOTBALL CHALLENGE SHIELD.

The third round for the Hongkong Football Challenge Shield resulted as follows:—

Hongkong Football Club beat R.E. by 2 to 0.

H.M.S. *Powerful* beat 25th Company, E.D.,

R.A., by 3 to 1.

H.M.S. *Victorious* beat 25th Company, S.D.,

R.A., by 3 to 1.

38th Company, S.D., R.A., beat G. Company,

R.W.F., by 2 to 1.

The semi-finals will be as follows:—

H.M.S. *Victorious* v. Hongkong Football

Club.

38th Company, S.D., R.A. v. H.M.S. *Power-*

ful.

This (Saturday) afternoon in the semi-final

H.M.S. *Victorious* will play the Hongkong

Football Club.

THE ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

CAPTAIN'S CUP AND SILVER MEDAL FOR MARCH.

There was again a very good entry for the monthly cup. The greens, owing to the prolonged drought, were rough and a good deal worn, which made play on them very uncertain.

The following are the returns handed in:—

CAPTAIN'S CUP.

Mr. E. E. Deacon	104	18	86
Mr. V. A. C. Hawkins	94	8	86
Mr. A. J. McClure	95	8	87
Dr. J. M. Atkinson	103	14	89
Mr. W. Taylor	99	13	89
Mr. C. M. G. Burnie	95	4	91
Capt. Des Vœux, R.E.	100	9	91
Capt. R. M. Rumsey, R.N.	100	8	92
Mr. R. H. Hill	105	12	93
Mr. H. W. Robertson	104	10	94
Mr. W. J. Saunders	104	7	97

31 entries.

POOL.

Lieut. Moreton, R.N.	96	15	81
Mr. V. A. C. Hawkins	94	8	86
Mr. P. L. Goddard, R.N.	98	11	87
Dr. J. M. Atkinson	103	14	89
Capt. Des Vœux, R.E.	100	9	91
Mr. R. H. Hill	105	12	93
Mr. W. J. Saunders	104	7	97

25 entries.

This completes the series of monthly competitions for the cup, and the winners, of which only six are at present in the colony, will have to play off at as early a date as possible to secure final possession of Mr. Jackson's handsome presentation.

Old residents in Shanghai, says the N. C. *Daily News*, will have received with regret the notice of the death of Mr. Pierre Piry, a Frenchman by birth. Mr. Piry was the Father of the Imperial Maritime Customs, which he entered about 1854, only retiring within the last two years. When a boy he was wrecked on the coast of Korea and taken to the Palace as a curiosity, and as such was sent by the King in a cage to Peking as tribute. The Court at Peking, not knowing what to do with him, sent him down to the Foreign Customs then just started by the Consuls at Shanghai, and he was regarded all his life as in some measure a special protégé of the Chinese Government.

SHOOTING.

Twelve members of the A Machine Gun Co., H.K.V.C., took part in the March competition with the following result:—

	200 yds.	400 yds.	500 yds.	Handicap.	Total.
Lieut. Fullerton	* 16	26	22	29	93
Sergeant Lammert	* 32	31	26	—	89
Sergeant Skelton	* 26	34	26	—	86
Gunner Plummer	27	24	18	16	85
Sergeant Smyth	31	29	24	—	84
Gunner King	21	17	22	23	83
Gunner Holmes	30	17	20	14	81
Sergeant Underwood	16	28	16	20	80
Gunner Barrett	24	16	13	26	79
Captain Sanders	22	27	11	16	76
Gunner Wodehouse	26	15	11	24	76
Gunner Touzalin	21	7	7	30	65

Lieut. Fullerton won the Nos. 1 and 2 Cups.
* Winners of Spoons.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

THE BARBARITIES PRACTISED ON FATHER VICTORIN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Sir,—“Old China Hand” in to be congratulated upon his keen perceptive faculties and prophetic power. He ought to get at least a province when the division of China—for which he seems so anxious—takes place. If he had read my letter and his *Daily Press* only half as carefully as he seems to have gloated over the details of the above outrage, he would have understood the relation which my quotation bore to the case in question, and whence I obtained it. I was referring to the perpetrators of the outrage, and not to those who acquiesced in it. My contention was, and is, that there are devils in all lands—which there are!—and that looking round upon the world and considering some of our own civilised barbarities committed and acquiesced in under the flimsy veil of humanitarianism and other such-like latter-day platitudes, we should not be so ready to shriek at our neighbours when they sometimes get upon the warpath. But “Old China Hand” was either too much blinded by race prejudice or else his mental vision is too cramped to see matters in this light.

He says:—“The details are not exaggerated but the reverse” or words to this effect. I ask: How does he know this? Was he present on the spot at the time the outrage took place? If not, has he not lived long enough in the world to know that horrors of all descriptions, East or West, always are more or less exaggerated, generally more, and often so much so as to be beyond all recognition by those who are acquainted with the true facts. I might call to mind a certain so-called riot which happened not long ago at a port not a thousand miles from Hongkong, the report of which frightened everybody half out of their lives up and down the coast, but which in its origin, its progress, and its end was only “sound and fury signifying nothing.” Repeated experience of this kind of thing has in fact taught me to disbelieve at least half of everything that I read, and to doubt the rest. This is no doubt a sadly pessimistic state to be in; but possibly “Old China Hand” may some day arrive at the same unhappy situation if he only lives long enough and grows wise enough.

As to the safety of China, he forgets that there are thousands of missionaries living at peace hundreds of miles in the interior of this great land; that they have been doing so for many years; and that these attacks are but isolated cases which would probably happen quite as frequently, if not more so, in any other land under similar conditions. Let us suppose, for example, China were to send to Europe the same number of Confucian or Buddhist missionaries as there are Christian missionaries in China, would they enjoy such a happy time of it as the latter do in China on the whole? I very much doubt it, with all our boasted freedom and civilization.

Anyhow, “Old China Hand” can hardly expect the enlightened public to accept his mere *ipse dixit* upon the subject as of much

value as against the experience of so exceptionally keen an observer as the author of “Chinese Characteristics,” unless he is kind enough to tell us something of himself, who he is, and what he has done to unravel the tangled skein of Celestial idiosyncrasy. It is quite possible to be a very “Old China Hand” and still to know no more of “Chinese Characteristics,” than one who has never travelled beyond the East end of London, or whose only acquaintance with a peacock’s feather has been somewhere round about the neighbourhood of Portland Place. I have known many such and they generally dogmatise more fiercely than those who know something. Apologising for encroaching so much upon your space.—I remain, sir, yours truly,

ANTI-PREJUDICE.

Canton, 10th March, 1899.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE “DAILY PRESS.”

Dear Sir,—Allow me through the medium of your valued paper to bring before the notice of the public the striking necessity of policing not only the Saukiwan, but the well-known and much more frequented Praya East Road. Only a night ago, at about 8.45, a party of young ladies escorted by a gentleman was on its way for a quiet ricksha drive, when all of a sudden an R.A. rushed from some dark nook or other close by Fenwick’s, and endeavoured to seize hold of each of the young ladies in turn. He missed the first two, but managed to catch hold of the third about the neck. The gentleman who was escorting the party immediately came to the rescue, and while politely asking the drunken R.A. what he meant by thus insulting the young ladies was landed a severe blow with a stick across the eye and had to be there and then taken off to the Civil Hospital, where on examination the wound inflicted was found to be of a very serious nature. Now, where were the police? Where was the military picket? As for the police, I must say that though I rode my bike up and down from Fenwick’s to the Hongkong Bank several times, the only guardian of the peace I met was a Sikh examining some filthy rags a Chinaman happened to be carrying along in a basket. Whether he was looking for the miscreant or not I cannot say, but I think our worthy Superintendent should be convinced by now that there is great need of a few more police along the roads at night. Enclosing my card, and thanking you for the insertion.—I am, dear sir, Yours truly,
HODIE MIHI CRAS TIBI.

Hongkong, 16th March, 1899.

THE MARTYRDOM OF FATHER VICTORIN.

EXECUTION OF HIS MURDERERS.

We learn from Hankow that some slight atonement has been made by the Chinese officials of Hupoh for the barbarous murder and torture of Father Victorin, but it is entirely inadequate to the enormity of the crime. Six men have been executed for the murder, which is ridiculous, considering that thousands must have participated in the shocking outrage against every canon of humanity. What about the guilty officials? Are they to escape scot free?—*China Gazette*.

THE FOREIGN TRADE OF CHINA.

Mr. F. E. Taylor, Statistical Secretary of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs, in his report on the foreign trade of China for last year, says:—

Were any proof needed of the vitality of China’s Foreign trade the figures for 1898 would supply it. Various parts of the country were disturbed by sporadic rebellions of sufficient gravity to check business; the Yellow River once more burst its banks and flooded enormous tracts; an ominous war cloud during the greater part of the year made importers cautious; the political situation was full of menace; and in September the news from Peking completely disorganised the trade of the northern ports. In spite of these adverse circumstances, the value of the Import trade surpassed all previous records, while the value of the Export trade exceeded that of every past year with the exception of 1897. The total volume of the trade was valued at Hk. Tls.

368,616,483, which is the highest on record. It is gratifying to know that, on the whole, the trade yielded satisfactory results to those interested.

So much Foreign capital has been lately invested in China that the condition of the external trade of the country, as an index to the national resources, is watched with a certain anxiety. On page 7 of this Report will be found the usual table giving the annual values of the Foreign trade from 1886 to 1898. It will be observed that in every year the value of the Imports has exceeded that of the Exports. For the whole period the Imports have amounted to Hk. Tls. 1,921,769,180, the Exports to Hk. Tls. 1,484,741,511, or an excess of Imports over Exports of Hk. Tls. 437,027,679, making an annual average of about Hk. Tls. 34,000,000. These figures have given rise in some quarters to the strange belief that China is being gradually denuded of silver to pay for the balance, and it has even been gravely stated that the country is approaching bankruptcy. It is pointed out that China has not only to pay for her Imports, but has also to find funds to meet remittances abroad for the service of loans, for the purchase of war material, and for the support of legations, etc. The depressing picture thus presented to the imagination has a tendency to destroy credit and prevents many people from investing in Chinese securities, and it may be well to show that, as far as can be ascertained, the position is one that need cause no anxiety. It must be explained, in the first place, that the figures given in the table on page 7 represent the value of goods on the Chinese market: that is to say, in the case of Imports, the value after they have paid Duty to the Government and a profit to the Chinese buyer; and in the case of Exports, the value on the market before they have been sold to the Foreign buyer and paid Export Duty. At the foot of this Report will be found the figures for 1898 reduced to the value of Imports at the moment of landing and the value of Exports at the moment of shipment; that is, at the moment when a balance may be fairly struck. Treated in this way, it will be found that instead of an excess of Imports amounting to Hk. Tls. 50,542,185, we have an excess of Hk. Tls. 7,331,144 only.* But we must also take into account the value of gold exported (gold in China being simply a commodity), amounting to Hk. Tls. 7,703,843, and the value of the tea sent to Siberia and Russia via the Han River (see page 15), valued at Hk. Tls. 1,720,999, and thus have an excess of exports over imports of Hk. Tls. 1,754,798. Moreover, a certain proportion of the imports, although arrived, were not sold at the end of the year. Further, it must be remembered that the figures which come under the cognizance of the Customs do not represent the whole of China’s Foreign trade. There is a junk traffic to Korea and to the South of which we have no statistics, but which is certainly profitable; and there is considerable trade with Mongolia and Tibet. It is estimated, for instance, that 20 million pounds of tea are sent annually into Tibet. The large income derived from the expenditure of Foreign vessels, both mercantile and national, for provision and other necessities must not be forgotten; and the sums which are remitted or brought back by emigrants probably reach a total which would be surprising were figures available, and which would alone be sufficient to cover all outgoings for the service of loans. It has been stated, apparently upon good authority, that from California alone the remittances amount to 10 or 12 millions of gold dollars annually. The expenditure of Foreign legations and consulates, the money spent by travellers who arrive in increasing numbers, and the preliminary disbursements of syndicates are all sources of income which must be taken into account. In the absence of definite information, the above considerations can only be put forward as presumptive evidence that the nation is well able to pay its way; but the proof is to be found in the fact that the Government remittances to Europe for the service of loans, amounting during 1898

* In 1897 this treatment showed an excess of exports over imports.

at average rates of exchange to nearly Hk. Tls. 18,000,000, are made through Foreign banks by the medium of bills of exchange against Exports. So far from Silver being exported abroad, there was a net import during the year of Hk. Tls. 4,722,025. Moreover, notwithstanding occasional tightness at the Treaty ports, information received from all parts of the country points to no scarcity of silver; and the general course of silver prices indicates that the metal is plentiful. It may be confidently asserted that China meets the whole of her obligations without any depletion of her currency, and that the Chinese buy no Imports except such as can be obtained in exchange for Exports. No doubt the Government is hard pressed for funds, but the country grows wealthier every year.

A real difficulty the Government has to face is the scarcity of copper cash—a difficulty which is likely to increase, as the intrinsic value of the cash as metal is actually greater than that of the silver for which they at present exchange. The copper money purchasable for a tael of silver costs the Government for metal (copper and zinc) not less than Tls. 1.354, which does not include the cost of minting. This condition has not only restricted coinage but has resulted in a serious disappearance of the coins, due to melting down for the sake of the copper. The number of cash exchanged for a tael in Shanghai has fallen since 1892 from 1,400 to 1,170, and a further fall is to be feared. The obvious remedy is an extended minting of subsidiary silver coins, and this process is gradually but very slowly taking place. As soon as the various syndicates get to work China may be expected to absorb every year an increasing quantity of the white metal.

The development of industrial enterprises, the extension of railways, and the exploitation of the mineral resources of the country are likely to have important effects upon trade in the near future. As regards the first, in spite of some disappointments, which admit of explanation and are temporary, steady progress is observable, and everything points to a prosperous future which will further develop the Foreign trade. No doubt certain Imports will soon feel the Native competition, but other goods will take their place in exchange for the exports now devoted to procuring those articles. If the Chinese can obtain their Cotton Yarn and matches more cheaply by making them, they will have something saved to spend on other goods. Industry leads to wealth and wealth brings demand for goods. And it is surprising that the prophecy should sometimes be heard that the Chinese will import less as they manufacture more. Experience teaches that the direct contrary is invariably the case.

INLAND NAVIGATION RULES.

The following correspondence is published with the minutes of the last monthly meeting of the Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce:—

THE CHAMBER TO THE CONSUL-GENERAL.
Shanghai General Chamber
of Commerce,
21st February, 1899.

Sir,—I am requested to draw your attention to a letter from Mr. Dudgeon which appeared in the *N. C. Daily News* on the 14th inst. with reference to the Inland Waters Navigation Rules.

A copy of the said letter is enclosed, and whilst well aware of the advantage secured by H.B.M.'s Minister in obtaining the assent of the Chinese Government to the opening of Inland Waters Navigation, it is evident that many amendments are needed in the newly-formed Regulations before they can prove any incentive to the Trade or to the providing of craft suitable to its requirements.

The Committee would therefore be glad to know whether a Revision of those Regulations is contemplated, and whether it would be appropriate for the Chamber to hand you for transmission to H.B.M.'s Minister, a memorandum of the amendments and additions desired, or if you are of opinion that Mr. Dudgeon's letter covers the ground sufficiently to avoid the necessity at present of troubling His Ex-

cellency with such a formal statement.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

DEUMMOND HAY,
Secretary.

Byron Brenan, Esq., C.M.G., H.B.M.'s Consul-General, Shanghai.

THE CONSUL-GENERAL TO THE CHAMBER.
H. M. Consulate-General,
Shanghai, 25th February, 1899.

Sir,—Referring to your letter of the 21st instant, I beg to suggest that you should send me a memorandum detailing the amendments and additions you consider necessary in the existing Inland Navigation rules and regulations. But it appears to me that the necessity for any change can only be demonstrated after the regulations have been put to the test of practical experience. I am not aware that any steamer in Shanghai has yet attempted to take advantage of the privileges obtained by H. M. Minister, so that, although Mr. Dudgeon may be justified in his anticipations that the Chinese officials will try to nullify the effect of the concession, this cannot be charged against them until the violation of the compact has occurred. Our newly acquired rights are clearly defined in Regulations 1 and 2; and I feel confident that H. M. Minister will see that any British subject is compensated for any loss he may suffer should the Chinese officials by any illegal act obstruct him in the enjoyment of these rights.

The questions of inland residence and the amalgamation of the native and foreign Custom Houses at the Treaty Ports are referred to by Mr. Dudgeon; and if these advantages could be obtained it is unquestionable that they could go a long way in thwarting the tactics of evasion which he with too much reason fears the officials will adopt; but these are questions which will have to be dealt with by themselves, and cannot well be grafted on to the Inland Navigation rules. The rules as they stand seem at present sufficient for our purpose if they are fairly carried out; and it is not until we have practical experience of their working that H.M. Minister can with reason complain to the Chinese Government that what they give with one hand they take away with the other.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

BYRON BRENNAN,
Acting Consul-General.

The Chairman, Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce.

PEKING.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

Li Hung-chang's return has been a subject of interest for some time past. He left Si-Guan, the provincial capital of Shantung, some time ago, but, when two days on his journey, was ordered by telegram to return to investigate some irregularities on the part of the local officials. This is looked upon as a mere ruse of his rivals to keep him out of Peking. His long experience in foreign affairs constitutes him a sort of Nestor; if he be on the spot the Dowager consults him, willy-nilly his competitors. As long as the old Tsung Tang is about nobody else feels that a free hand is possible.

Jung Lu's influence is still paramount in the administration. For some considerable time back he has been striving hard at a bit of centralization very desirable on abstract grounds, however inexpedient it may be from other points of view. He has been trying to get the administration and control of the Southern military forces into his hands. Siu Kun-yi has maintained a steadfast and determined opposition to this; and is backed up by every officer south of the Yangtze. Jung has the support of the Ex-Emperors, but is none the less experiencing the extreme difficulty of carrying out improvement against interests vested or corrupt. Each side credits the other with a sole desire to handle the spoils; and in the present state of Chinese and Manchu officialdom, he would be a bold man who would assert that such a desire is not part and parcel of the policy undertaken.

It is of course obvious that on its own merits military centralization is an absolute necessity if China is ever to make a beginning in warlike efficiency. For years Li, while in Tientsin, urged centralization in naval matters; he

clearly pointed out the inevitable consequence of neglecting it. Had the Nanyang ships been as efficient as the Peiyang and mobilized with them, the Yaloo would either never have been fought or would have had other issue. But this is indulging in the most useless of all hypotheses—those of what might have been.

For some weeks an occult and mysterious quarrel has been raging here about the Railway Directorate. None of us know accurately the details or the exact issues, though we know the main lines on which it has been conducted. Chang Yeu-mao and Taotai Hsü have after a desperate struggle ousted Hu Yen-fu from the chief directorate of the Railways. The Engineer-in-chief, having had former experience of Mr. Chang's inimical attitude to himself and thinking the changes adverse to British commercial interests, strongly resented them; he took up a position of stout hostility to the new management. The Minister seems to have supported him; and as the Northern Railways are largely the security for the recent huge loans contracted between the Imperial Government and British capitalists, it is highly probable that Sir Claude's interference was both strenuous and pertinent.

Chang is the cleverest man living in squaring the great bureaucrats of Peking; as the bailiff of the Seventh Prince he amassed a huge fortune and acquired an unapproachable knowledge of the undercurrents of the Capital. His pilotage is phenomenal, and is always shown in *excelesis* when his own interests are at stake. He is believed up here to be under the leading strings and inspiration of the former foreign Commissioner of Customs in Tientsin who, though on furlough, is present in the North as a private resident. It is freely bruited about that there has been a sort of informal combination of the German, French, and Russian legations against the attitude taken by H. M. Minister in the quarrel.

It is stated to-day that a *modus vivendi* has been reached, that Hsü and Chang are to remain directors, but that their power of interference with the Engineer-in-Chief has been precisely defined and their powers limited. A curious story reaches us from Tientsin in connexion with the incident, viz., that the German firms there have formally or informally expressed their sympathy with the late as against the present railway management, on the ground that under the former things were submitted to competitive tender in the open market, while under the latter they fear that the Northern Railways will become a mere appanage of F. Krupp of Essen.

Personally I must confess to some scepticism on this obscure affair. National bias and commercial rivalry go a long way in the foolish raising of bogeys. Beyond one or two changes in the administration when he took over the Tongshan pits, there is no reason whatever to show Mr. Chang is inimical to British interests. Indeed there is very abundant evidence that he is not adverse to Britishers as such: nine-tenths of his staff both in the pits and steamers are Englishmen and most of the new steamers and much of the plant are British. Chang is an astute man of business, and so far has bought where he can buy best.

Like many other great capitalists he has a strong bias to monopoly. He has succeeded in making the coal of North China strictly such. His control of the Railways is directed to the same end. His energies at present are directed to forming a big all-the-year-round open port for ocean steamers at Chingwangtoun, the new treaty port near Peitaiho.

Our Tientsin neighbours profess much alarm at this threatened rival, and think the inmost spirit of Macchiavel is at Chang's right ear in this policy. They forget the inherent conservatism of trade in sticking to established places, the unknown physical difficulties of a sea mole at Chingwangtoun, and the boundless expense before a cent will be seen in return. We have had two very open winters in succession, and the assumption is made that these give sufficient hydraulic data for a huge engineering scheme. (Only when an experienced engineer has watched the coast through a very severe season, and has seen the action of the ice under a great north-easter, and reported accordingly, will it be time to talk of a safe, open, winter port in the Gulf of Pechihli.

The disturbances in Liantung are serious, and that is practically all that we know about them. The skimpiest of telegrams have reached the Chinese officials here; they are to the effect that the Chinese in Kinohow, the city just to the north of the Regent's Sword (say sixty miles directly from Port Arthur), refused to pay their taxes; thereupon the Cossacks were brought out, a row took place, and one hundred natives were promptly shot dead, a larger number being wounded. This on the face of it is untrustworthy, and is clearly an inadequate description. Reuter's wire from Europe makes Talienwan the scene of the fracas; but Talienwan is not mentioned in the messages received here. We shall hear all about it next week when the river opens. Talienwan is under Russian lease; it is doubtful if Kinohow is.

Sir Claude MacDonald hopes to get a run home this spring or summer. Lady MacDonald with her children and sister will spend the time at Peitaiho. The Minister has taken a cottage at East Shore for his family: he will this spring build a seaside residence for himself. I understand that the Princely House, Mr. Probst of Shanghai, and Dr. Robertson of Tientsin will be his neighbours in a little settlement one mile east of Rocky Point, the Missionary Settlement.

The very commodious new premises for the Legation at the Western Hills will be finished this summer.

Athleticism runs strong in Young England here just now and *ballons d'essai* are being flown to see if a plot of ground could not be leased in the south-east angle of the Manchu city where polo, football, &c., might be practised. Such a proposal would have been fatuous five years ago, but things have moved since then.

The British Marine Guard has been confined to the Legation all the winter: except drill, modified "socket," and bowling, physical exercise has been impossible.

Sir Robert Hart has been suffering from a severe attack of lumbago, but is better again.

No confidence whatever can be placed in the rumours of intended Palace revolutions which are finding their way south via Tientsin.

NORTH FORMOSA.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

Taipei, 9th March.

The absorbing topic of the day is the Formosan Loan Bill, which has now been passed by the Diet. The 42 million yen desired for the construction of a railway to the south, harbour works, and other improvements has been cut down to 35,600,000 yen. Dr. Goto, Formosan Civil Chief, whose stay in Tokyo on this mission has extended over half a year, has exerted his best endeavours and urged the necessity of improvements by interviewing Ministers and delivering speeches at social gatherings. At first opposition in the Lower House was seemingly slight and we here little doubted but that the money would be forthcoming. A few days back, however, the situation took on a different aspect, and telegrams arriving from Tokyo were sufficiently discouraging to create considerable excitement among the Japanese population in the city, officials and merchants alike.

Two days ago the Japanese municipality suddenly met and wired to Tokyo a resolution stating that should the Loan Bill not pass the Diet the prospect would be so discouraging that Japanese merchants and colonists in general would think seriously of leaving the Island. To-day, however, there is a general feeling of satisfaction. The Bill has passed the Diet and we are now to have a railway through the Island and other much needed improvements.

No details have yet been received as to how large a vote the Bill received. Doubtless its opponents in the Diet believed that the affairs in the Island and the prospect of increased revenue were not sufficiently bright to warrant such extensive works as those proposed.

Rumour here has it that the news of the capture of Koshun, a town in the southern extremity, by the insurgents at the close of the last year resulted in a loss of confidence in the present Formosan Government. The Authorities here support a Government organ and there is some doubt expressed as to whether the difficulties in the Island are always fully represented there. How far the story is correct

we are unable to ascertain, but it is stated that some weeks ago two Japanese surveyors were killed a few miles up the Tamsui river from Taipei by banditti who had formerly been pardoned by the Government. No word of this, however, appeared in the Government journal.

Leaving the fate of the Loan Bill behind, Governor General Baron Kodama left Kelang a few days ago for a visit to the Pescadores, where new fortifications are to be erected, the funds having recently been granted by the Diet.

There is in the Diet another Bill of much importance to the Island. It is the camphor monopoly scheme. The Government intends to purchase directly from producers all the camphor turned out in the Island and sell it either in crude or refined form. It is expected to gain from this source a revenue of one million yen per annum.

The Plague epidemic is assuming large proportions, 17 cases in Tainan and two cases in Tamsui (Hobe) having been reported for the two days of the 4th and 5th instant.

The firm of Mourilyan, Heiman & Co. has lately secured commodious quarters here with the intention of engaging in tea and general business, and Mr. H. W. S. Edmunds, late of Osaka, agent for several large American manufacturers, has during the month established himself here as a general commission merchant.

Mr. Von Varchmin, the Acting German Consul here, leaves in a few days to take charge of the Swatow Consulate during the absence of Mr. Streich, who will go home on leave. It is believed that Mr. Zimmermann, at present Vice-Consul at Shanghai, will take charge of the Tamsui Consulate.

HONGKONG.

The U.S. monitor *Monadnock* arrived from Manila on 14th March.

H.M.S. *Brisk*, the *Archer's* relief, arrived on Sunday from Singapore.

A call of \$1 per share has been made by the Punjom Mining Co., Limited.

There were 2,388 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 186 were Europeans. It is notified in the *Gazette* that Inspector W. Robertson has been appointed an Inspector of Nuisances.

The Governor's assent to the Ordinance to amend and consolidate the law relating to Prisons is notified in the *Gazette*.

The death rate last month was, for the British and Foreign community, civil population, 25.5, and for the Chinese community 17.1.

Sergeant Scott has been appointed Acting Inspector, the appointment to date from March 4th, when Inspector Baker commenced his leave.

Rear Admiral and Mrs. Swinton Holland will not leave by this mail as arranged, in consequence of the indisposition of Mrs. Holland.

Mr. E. Goetz has joined the Court of Directors of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank in place of Mr. Beumann, who has left the colony.

The search lights of the men-of-war were in practice on Tuesday night, with very fine effects both on the Hongkong and Kowloon sides of the harbour.

A large supply of copper coin was received by the P. & O. steamer *Tientsin*. This should relieve the scarcity that has of late sent copper cents to a premium.

Early on Saturday the steamer *Chittagong*, which left the harbour on the 7th inst., returned with her bottom damaged through touching on the Pratas Shoal.

The maximum temperature last month was 74.5, on the 11th, and the minimum 47.6, on the 6th, the mean for the month being 59.6. The rainfall amounted to 2.205 inches.

We hear that steps are being taken for the formation of a Public Company to take over the Peak Hotel and Craigiebarn, \$350,000 is mentioned as the probable capital.

The new steam road roller may now be seen on the Praya reclamation near the Hongkong Club, apparently ready for work. It is quite a natty little affair, "neat but not gaudy."

Messrs. Lütgens, Einstmann & Co., General Agents of the Great Eastern and Caledonian Gold Mining Co., Limited, inform us that they have received the following telegram from their manager at the mines:—"240 tons, 115 ounces, and 3 tons concentrates,

The stamp revenue last month was \$35,948, being an increase of \$9,696 on the amount collected in the corresponding month last year. The principal increase occurs under the head of probate.

A small lot of Crown land at Deepwater Bay was sold on Monday by public auction. The lot contains 10,320 square feet and was bought by Messrs. Shewan, Tomes & Co., for the Green Island Cement Co., for \$511.

On 15th March a plot of Crown land, measuring 5,000 square feet and situate on the Peak Road, was sold by public auction, Mr. John Lemm, architect, being the purchaser. The price paid was \$1,000, being \$400 above the upset price. The annual rent is \$34, and the term 75 years.

The Straits Insurance Co., Limited, has decided to issue 30,000 preference shares of \$10 each. It is also proposed to reduce the present shares from \$100 with \$20 paid up to \$90 with \$10 paid up so that the nominal capital and the liability on the ordinary shares will remain the same as hitherto.

On 14th March Major-General Gascoigne held a general inspection of the Royal Welch Fusiliers, all the companies—eight in number—being present. The men, who were in full dress, looked very smart and apparently gave general satisfaction. The parade, in which the regimental goat took part, attracted a good number of spectators.

Among the public works projected is, we hear, the formation of a road along the Pokfulam Conduit, in the same style as the Eowen Road. This would form a pleasant promenade and would open up a number of desirable building sites. In connection with the projected road running by High West and down in the direction of Richmond Road the Pokfulam Conduit Road would also give an alternative means of access to the Peak.

On the 13th March Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., delivered a lecture at the City Hall, under the auspices of the Odd Volumes Society, on "The strength and weakness of England." The Hon. T. H. Whitehead occupied the chair, and amongst the large audience present were H.E. the Governor and H.E. Major-General Gascoigne. Mr. Francis's lecture was in large part a reply to the lecture delivered by Colonel Elsdale last week. Mr. Francis did not agree with Colonel Elsdale that the British nation was more vulgar than other nations, nor that it was deficient in imagination. The cause of the weakness in dealing with the various questions of foreign policy to which Colonel Elsdale had alluded was, he said, want of knowledge, and not want of imagination, and he recommended to his hearers, as he did in a lecture last year, a close study of Seeley's "Expansion of England." The reason the British were disliked by other nations was, he suggested, the national self-complacency and arrogance resulting from the accomplishment of great deeds. He also referred to the system of party government as a cause of weakness in foreign policy. One of the principal strong points to which he alluded was the equal administration of justice, not only as between man and man, but as between the executive and the individual—Colonel Elsdale, Lieut. Hobson, U.S.N., and Mr. Granville Sharp each spoke on the topics raised by Mr. Francis. Lieut. Hobson's remarks were to the effect that the strength of the Anglo-Saxon race lay in the fact that the Anglo-Saxon was a hard working man. In all the industries, arts, and sciences, there was a vast mass of accumulated knowledge that had to be mastered before progress could be made, and it was in the tenacity of the Anglo-Saxon in sticking to his work that the secret of his success lay. He illustrated this by a reference to the contrast between the activity which prevailed on the American ships when the outbreak of the recent war was anticipated and the supineness that prevailed in the Spanish fleet. In the former the men worked all day without a murmur, getting up coal and putting it back again, protecting weak points around the guns by coal bags and sand bags, and practising every possible movement, and then worked far into the night practising with the electric light, whereas on the Spanish ships the ordinary drill was gone through in the same perfunctory manner as in ordinary times.—Votes of thanks to the lecturer and to the chairman brought the meeting to a close.

The following returns of the average amount of Bank notes in circulation and of specie in reserve in Hongkong, during the month ended 28th February, 1899, as certified by the managers of the respective Banks, are published:—

Banks.	Average Amount.	Specie in Reserve.
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China	\$2,964,785	\$1,600,000
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	8,275,109	5,000,000
National Bank of China, Limited	448,083	150,000

Total .. \$11,687,977 \$6,750,000

At the Magistracy, on Saturday, before Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, a pantry boy on the *Hue* was charged with stealing at various dates between the 9th ult. and the 10th inst. blankets and towels to the value of \$49.50. The steamer has been in dock for the last month. Defendant was seen trying to get out of dock on Friday night with two bundles. On being stopped he returned to the steamer. Here it was discovered what he had been about, and he was taken to the Hung Hom Police Station. On his being searched by Sergeant Gauld pawntickets for blankets were found in his possession. Defendant, against whom there were two previous convictions, was sentenced to six months' imprisonment on each of four counts, the sentences to run concurrently.

Since he became Police Magistrate Mr. T. Sercombe Smith has revived a practice which had previously been allowed to lie in abeyance for several years—making prisoners who have served a term in gaol sit in the stocks for several hours. On Saturday a man who had been convicted of larceny finished his term of three weeks, and then sat in the stocks near the Canton Wharf for five hours with a board in front of him reciting his offence, an Indian constable standing on each side of him. He had to carry the stocks—no light weight—to and from the Wharf himself. The spectacle aroused the curiosity of his fellow-countrymen, who gathered round jeering and laughing, at him. Such spectacles are not calculated to have a wholesome effect either on the criminal or on the jeerers.

The funeral of Gunner T. Curran, of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps, who died at the Government Civil Hospital on Wednesday, 8th March took place on Friday, the remains being interred in the Roman Catholic Cemetery at Happy Valley. The funeral left the Volunteer Headquarters at about half-past four. A firing party composed of the Dock detachment headed the procession. The band of the Royal Welch Fusiliers came next, and the usual gun carriage, containing the coffin, followed, being dragged by 16 men. Over the coffin was laid a Union Jack, deceased's helmet, sword, and belt, and a large number of beautiful wreaths. The gunners were next and the officers, including the commandant, brought up the rear. When approaching the Cemetery the Band played the "Dead March."

On 14th March a deputation from the men on the United States transport *Arizona* called at this office to ventilate certain grievances with reference to the food supplied on board. The ship is taking home about two hundred sick and wounded from Manila, many of them suffering from dysentery, and it is alleged that the food is unsuitable for invalids and that in quality it is deficient. There are thirty-four men on board on special diet, and with reference to the food of these no dissatisfaction is expressed. It is with reference to the food of the remainder, who, we presume, would be classed as convalescents, that complaint is made. We are informed that the Government allows 60 cents gold, equal to \$1.25 Mexican, per head per day for the men's messing, and for this they receive the following diet: Breakfast, canned beef, bread, and coffee; dinner, canned salmon, bread, and potatoes; supper, tea, peaches or apples, and bread. The bread is said to be unexceptionable, but as regards the remainder of the diet it is contended that the sum paid by the Government, if judiciously disbursed, is sufficient to provide a much larger variety. The duties of nurses here, it is said, to be discharged by men who are themselves being sent home for treatment, and sick men are also called upon to mount guard.

It is notified by advertisement that at the recent annual meeting of the China Mutual Steam Navigation Co., Limited, a final dividend of 3 per cent. was declared on the preference shares, making 6 per cent. in all, and a dividend of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares.

On 14th March some Chinamen were engaged in excavating at Applichan, Aberdeen, when the earth gave way and several of them were buried beneath it. On their being extricated two were found to be dead, and another was so seriously injured that he had to be taken to the hospital.

Referring to reports as to strained relations between the United States and German authorities over the Philippines and the alleged traffic in German arms which are said to have been sold to the natives of the islands the *China Gazette* says:—We do not think there is very much in these reports, as it is not from the Germans that Aguinaldo is getting his supplies, which come, strange as it may appear, largely from this part of China and even from Nanking. It is well known that Shanghai itself has made a few good deals in arm transactions of this kind, while Hongkong, with all its brotherly love for the sister American Colony, has not been above making a profit whenever chance offered from the troubles between the Americans and their quondam Malay allies.

Mr. Droeze, the Netherlands Consul, informs us that the Governor-General of Netherlands-India has decreed that all ships or vessels arriving from Hongkong or having called at this port are subject in Netherlands-India to a quarantine of ten days from the date of departure from this port or since the last case of plague on board. Importation of animal refuse, of claws, hoofs, and animal hair from Hongkong or transhipped at Hongkong is temporarily prohibited. Also it is temporarily prohibited to import into Netherlands-India tapestry and used embroideries, unless these are transported as personal baggage or in consequence of change of residence. Also it is temporarily prohibited to import into Netherlands-India bags or socks which have already been used and coming from Hongkong or transhipped at this port.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED KINGDOM AND CONTINENT.

	1898-99	1897-98
	lbs.	lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai...	12,230,663	15,099,727
Foochow	12,976,578	12,607,188
Amoy	688,318	685,651
Canton	5,149,722	5,889,288
	31,044,281	34,281,854

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1898-99	1897-98
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai	16,621,547	20,836,000
Amoy	15,036,418	15,861,506
Foochow	9,178,280	7,740,343
	40,836,240	44,447,851

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA

	1898-99	1897-98
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow...	22,783,272	19,462,293

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1898-99	1897-98
	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama	25,613,523	26,704,310
Kobe	13,658,363	15,602,288
	38,271,880	42,306,590

SILK.

CANTON, 4th March.—Tsatlees and Re-reels.—We have no business to report in these classes. New silk.—The only transaction we hear of is 50 bales Re-reels No. 1 Grant at \$645, shipment June to September. Filatures.—Have been in good demand in the early part of the fortnight, and prices advanced another \$20 per picul. Owing to the high prices asked by the dealers business has been limited. From prices paid we quote: \$910 for Sun Yu Lun and Kwong Lun Fung 2/11

and 900 for Wing Wo Lun, Yee Wo Loong and Wing King Lun 9/11, and 870 for King Shing Gold Lion 11/13, \$860 for King Wo Hing and Kwong King Loong 10/12, \$855 for Kwong Shun Tai 10/12, \$840 for Shun Kee and Shoi Him Wo 11/13, \$790 for Man Po Sing 16/20, \$775 for King Wo Cheong 18/22. Short-reels.—There being no III A. Filatures, business was limited to Best and No. 2 Chops. From prices paid we quote: \$860 for Han King Lun and Han King Sing 14/16, \$815 for Kum Shun Cheong and Koun King 14/16, \$815 to \$810 for Man Po Sing and King Lun 14/16. Waste.—Prices advanced \$1 to \$1.50.

SHANGHAI, 11th March.—(From Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons' Circular.)—The Home markets keep firm and quotations remain unchanged. Raw Silk.—Very little doing, Gold Killings have changed hands at Tls. 540. Yellow Silk.—A good demand has existed; total settlements amount to 100 bales. Arrivals, as per Customs Return, 4th to 10th March, are: 184 bales White, 87 bales Yellow and 54 bales Wild Silk. Re-reels and Filatures.—A fair business doing; contracts have been made for 150/200 bales. Steam Filatures.—Keep strong and about 150 bales have been settled. The Export of Steam Filatures to date is: 3,027 bales to France, 2,296 bales to America, and 131 bales to England. Wild Silk.—Market, firm, little doing. Waste Silk.—Nothing doing.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1898-99	1897-98
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	55,572	49,316
Canton	27,940	19,842
Yokohama	18,584	18,025
	102,096	84,183

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1898-99	1897-98
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	8,787	10,616
Canton	8,710	10,440
Yokohama	26,437	30,255
	43,924	51,311

CAMPBOR.

HONGKONG, 17th March.—The market is not so brisk as last reported and prices have given way a little. Quotations for Formosa are \$68.00 to \$68.50. Sales 25 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 17th March.—The tone of the market has slightly improved and prices are a little firmer. Quotations are:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White...	\$7.80 to \$7.85 per picul.
do. " 2, White...	7.15 to 7.20 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown...	5.20 to 5.25 "
do. " 2, Brown...	5.05 to 5.10 "
Swatow, No. 1, White...	7.75 to 7.80 "
do. " 1, White...	7.10 to 7.15 "
Swatow, No. 1, Brown...	4.90 to 4.95 "
do. " 2, Brown...	4.75 to 4.80 "
Foochow Sugar Candy	11.60 to 11.65 "
Shekloong	10.00 to 10.05 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Doric*, sailed on the 26th February. For San Francisco:—7 cases silk goods. For Panama:—5 cases silk goods.

Per German steamer *Sachsen*, sailed on the 1st March. For Singapore:—300 bags flour, 135 baskets fruits, and 4 cases ironware. For Colombo:—3 cases samples and 1 case wine. For Naples:—8 cases cigars. For Genoa:—650 bales waste silk. For Barcelona:—8 cases silk. For New York:—4 boxes silk piece goods. For Antwerp:—150 bales feathers and 2 cases cigars. For Antwerp and/or Rotterdam:—213 bags gum copal, 48 bales hemp, 4 cases indigo, and 4 cases cigars. For Rotterdam:—8 bales China grass and 8 cases cigars. For Bremen:—500 packages tea, 3 boxes bamboo baskets, 2 boxes sundries, 2 bags coffee, 1 case paintings, and 1 case tobacco. For Hamburg:—142 bales feathers, 65 cases palm leaf fans, 40 boxes bristles, 16 cases private effects, 4 bales China grass, 3 cases cigars, 2 rolls matting, and 1 bag coffee.

Per steamer *Sikh*, sailed on the 3rd March. For New York:—1,326 packages fireworks, 100 bags rice, 50 bales bamboo splits, 51 cases black-woodware, and 913 packages merchandise.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 17th March.—Bengal.—There has been a considerable advance in rates for Old Benares and Patna, New Benares having experienced a decline. Latest quotations are:—Patna \$825, Old Benares \$845, New Benares \$810.

Malwa.—Very old cargo is in demand & the market for other descriptions is steady. Quotations are:—

New Malwa \$700 with all'ce from 6/16 to 1½ catty. Old (2 yrs.) \$730 " " 0 to 1½ " " (8/4 ") \$760 " " 0 to 2 " " (5/6 ") \$800 " " 0 to 2 " " (7/8 ") \$850 " " 0 to 2½ "

Persian.—This market has been rather active during the past week, and a good amount of Opium has changed hands to supply the demand in Formosa, market closing steady at following figures:—Oily \$550 to \$650, and Paper-tied \$650 to \$750, according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

Patna..... 2,037 chests.
New Benares 47 "
Old Benares 132 "
Malwa 690 "
Persian 1,179 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1899.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Mar. 11	822½	—	810	835	700	—
Mar. 12	822½	—	810	835	700	—
Mar. 13	822½	—	810	835	700	—
Mar. 14	822½	—	815	835	700	—
Mar. 15	825	—	810	840	700	—
Mar. 16	823½	—	810	840	700	—
Mar. 17	825	—	810	845	700	—

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 17th March.—A slight decline in the superior qualities has induced very small sales; market closes very dull. Stocks, about 4,000 bales.

Bombay..... 15.00 to 16.25 picul.
Karrache " to " "
Bengal (New), Bangoon, } 16.25 to 17.75 picul.
and Dacca }
Shanghai and Japanese, ... 20.00 to 21.00 "
Tungchow and Ningpo, ... 20.00 to 21.00 "
Madras (Best) " to " "
Sales: 425 bales Bengal (New), Bangoon, and Dacca.

RICE.

HONGKONG, 17th March.—The decline continues, the market being dull. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary..... \$2.60 to 2.65
" Round, good quality..... 2.90 to 2.95
" Long 3.30 to 3.35
Sim, Field, mill cleaned, No. 1 ... 3.10 to 3.15
" Garden, No. 1 ... 3.25 to 3.30
" White..... 3.70 to 3.75
" Fine Cargo 3.90 to 4.00

COALS.

HONGKONG, 17th March.—Shall retail business reported. Quotations are:—

Carliff \$19.00 to 20.00 ex ship, nominal
Australian..... 10.00 to 10.50 ex ship, "
Miki Lump } 9.00 to 10.00 nominal
and Small }
Mojji Lump ... 7.00 to 9.00 ex ship, quiet
Hongay double } 12.00 ex Godown
screened..... }
Hongay Lump ... 8.00 to 8.50 ex ship
Hongay Dust.. 5.50 to —
Briquettes ... 10.50 to —

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 17th March.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARNS AND PIECE GOODS.—Bombay Yarn.—1,100 bales No. 20 at \$67 to \$68, 450 bales No. 12 at \$74 to \$81.50, 250 bales No. 16 at \$82.50 to \$86, 550 bales No. 20 at \$83 to \$85. Bengal Cotton.—56 bales at \$16, 56 bales at \$16.60, 27 bales at \$17.25, 50 bales at \$17, 62 bales at \$17.30. White Shirtings.—500 pieces Monkey and Fish at \$3.65, 150 pieces D K at \$4.92½. Grey Shirtings.—500 pieces 10 lbs. Blue 7 Boys at \$3.45. Drills.—200 pieces 14 lbs. Pracock at \$3.92½. 32 Yarn.—10 bales Red Buffalo at \$118.25. 22/24 Yarn.—50 bales Green Pleasant at \$106.50. 28 Yarn.—50 bales Yellow Lion at \$110.

COTTON YARN. per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s..... 61.00 to 92.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24..... 101.00 to 108.00
" 22 to 24..... 106.00 to 110.00
" 28 to 32..... 114.00 to 120.00
" 38 to 42..... 125.00 to 131.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

per piece
Grey Shirtings—6lbs. 1.70 to 1.80
7lbs. 1.92 to 2.00
8½ lbs. 2.35 to 3.10
9 to 10 lbs. 3.25 to 4.05
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. 2.30 to 2.50
58 to 60 " 2.70 to 3.35
64 to 66 " 3.50 to 4.35
Fine 4.35 to 7.05
Book-folds. 3.75 to 5.65
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ... 0.66 to 1.85
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.) Ord'y. 1.52 to 1.72
7lbs. (32 ") 1.85 to 2.10
6lbs. (32 ") Mexs. 1.62 to 1.82
7lbs. (32 ") 2.10 to 2.75
8 to 8.4 oz. (36 in.) 2.35 to 3.20
Drills, English—40 yds., 14 to 16lbs 3.65 to 6.85

FANCY COTTONS

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8lbs. 1.60 to 4.75
Brocades—Dyed 3.00 to —
per yard
Damasks 0.12 to 0.16
Chintzes—Assorted 0.08 to —
Velvets—Black, 22 in. 0.19 to 0.40
velveteens—18 in. 0.17 to 0.18
per dozen
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.25 to 1.25

WOOLLENS

per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops. 0.60 to 1.50
German — to —
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths. 1.00 to 2.25
per piece
Long Ells—Scarlet 6.25 to 9.50
Assorted 6.35 to 9.60
Camlets—Assorted 12.00 to 32.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, (Assorted) 9.00 to 20.60
Orleans—Plain 7.50 to 9.00
per pair
Blankets—8 to 12lb. 8.50 to 14.00

METALS

per picul
Iron—Nail Rod 4.10 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar ... 4.10 to —
Swedish Bar 6.00 to —
Small Round Rod 4.75 to —
Hoop ½ to 1½ in., 5.75 to —
Wire 15/25 9.00 to —
Old Wire Rope 2.50 to —
Lead, L. B. and Hole Chop ... 8.65 to —
Australian 8.60 to —
Yellow Metal—Muntz, 14/20 oz. 40.00 to —
Vivian's, 14/20 oz. 40.00 to —
Elliot's, 14/20 oz. 40.00 to —
Composition Nails 75.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs 36.00 to —
Tiles 6.00 to —
Tin — to —
per box
Tin-Plates 6.00 to —
per cwt. case
Steel ½ to ¾ 5.75 to —

SUNDRIES

per picul
Quicksilver..... 145.00 to —
per box
Window Glass 5.25 to —
per 10-gal. case
Kerosene Oil 2.25 to —

SHANGHAI, 11th March.—(From Messrs. Noël, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade Report.)—Piece Goods.—The delay in sending forward the first supplies for the opening of the Tient-in season has occasioned another week of quietness in our market, in fact, but for the Auction sales business has practically been at a standstill. The interest of those engaged in this trade has naturally centred in the quantity that has gone forward. This makes a total of 51,842 packages, against 48,688 packages last year, American goods showing an increase of 12,000 bales, while Yarns of all descriptions are about 2,000 bales less, English makes accounting for nearly the whole of the balance of the falling off—some 4,000 packages. From the news received by a steamer that came in yesterday from Tientsin there was a good deal of apathy there regarding the market, but it could scarcely have been opened when she left. There is still nothing of interest to report from our other dependencies, except that Newchwang is almost bare of stocks and prospects are consequently favourable so far. Very little business appears to have been done either with Manchester or New York during the week, the markets in both places showing no signs of giving way, and buyers here hesitate about paying the necessary prices to replace sales at rates now current so long as the Native dealers have low cost supplies on hand, or to arrive. Cotton is steady

in Liverpool at last week's quotation. At a meeting of the representatives of both Foreign and Native owned Mills held this afternoon to consider the present unsatisfactory position in which they are placed owing to the native speculators, it was decided, with only one dissentient, to form an Association amongst themselves, under certain penalties, not to buy Cotton over a price that is to be agreed upon weekly, T's 14 00 being that fixed for the ensuing week. It was thought better not to put the limit to flow at first, but it was clearly shewn that according to the cost of production, which is only tendollar cents a catty for ginned Cotton, the farmers can well afford to take a much lower price.

METALS, 13th March.—(From Messrs. Alex. Biefield & Co.'s Report).—Metals.—But little business has been transacted during the week, and there is practically but little to report. We have heard of the following transactions:—100 tons London Horseshoes 88/ c.i.f.c., 50 tons Scrap 73/6 c.i.f.c., 50 tons Old Iron Chain 88/6 c.i.f.c., 50 tons Boiler Plates at Tl. 1.95 spot, 50 tons Boiler Tubes at Tl. 1.80, spot. 25 tons American Pig Iron at Tl. 21.00, spot.

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 17th March.—The market has ruled steady, except in Bank stock, and a fair ordinary business has been transacted during the week under review.

BANKS.—With some settlements shares on the market and a drop of £2 in the London rate, Hongkong and Shanghai have ruled very weak, and a sudden drop of 7 percent. was experienced in the early part of the week, shares changing hands at 264 and 263. Later, however, with the removal from the market of some of the most pressing lots, and a recovery of the London rate to £57.10, the market became much steadier and a demand for one or two small parcels at 264 was not met; at the time of writing small lots are enquired for at 264 per cent. prem. Nationals have not been dealt in and remain steady at \$20.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders and Cantons have continued on offer at quotations, but with no sales to report. Unions have been enquired for, and have changed hands in a small way at \$230. Straits and North Chinas have also been in some demand, but no sales have been reported. Yangtszes continue out of favour at quotation.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Both Hongkongs and China Fires continue dull at quotations with no sales or enquiry.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao ruled steady in the early part of the week, and, owing to reported satisfactory settlement of the pool arrangements, became firmer towards the end. Sales have been effected at \$28, \$28½, and \$28½ for cash, and at \$29 for April; market closes steady at \$28½. Indo-Chinas remain dull and more or less neglected, sellers at \$67 ruling the market. China and Manilas have weakened a little with sellers at \$78 ex div. and no sales reported. Douglasses have found buyers at \$58 and \$58½, and China Mutuals continue in demand at quotations.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have changed hands during the week at \$182½, \$182, and \$181 for cash and settlements, also at \$191 for July delivery, market closing steady at \$181. Luzons continue out of the market with sellers at \$52.

MINING.—Punjoms ordinary have been negotiated at \$5½ and \$5 and preferences at \$1.20, \$1.15, and \$1.25, both closing quiet at quotations. Charbonnages have eased up a little with sellers and no buyers or sales at \$140. Queen Mines changed hands at \$1 in the early part of the week, but close quiet with sellers at 70 cents. Jebebus have ruled easier with sales at \$8. Raubs have found buyers at \$61, \$60½, \$60, and \$59½, closing quiet at \$60; shares are enquired for for July delivery, but holders are unwilling to part at anything like a reasonable equivalent of the cash rate and no sales have been reported. Olivers "B" have changed hands at quotation, but "A's" continue on offer without business. Great Easterns, which have ruled very quiet with small sales as low as \$4.50, close rather steadier at \$4.75, after telegraphic advice of a crushing of 240 tons for a yield of 115 oz.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Dock are enquired for with financial facilities at 314 to 315 per cent. prem., but shares are not obtainable; on time shares have changed hands at 332 for June,

and 339 for August. Kowloon Wharves continue neglected at \$81 without business, but shares could be placed at \$80. Wanchais quiet with no transactions.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands are obtainable in small lots at \$78½, and a few shares have changed hands at that rate. Hotels continue steady at \$78 ex div. Humphreys remain on offer at \$9, with small sales. West Point quiet at \$28.

COTTONS.—Hongkong Cottons have been negotiated at \$81 and Ewos locally at Tls. 78. Other quotations in the absence of local business are taken from the last Shanghai circulars.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have ruled weak after the publication of the report showing a sum of \$50,317.44 available for distribution, which sum the directors propose to carry forward against the new works at Hok Un and to pay no dividend; market closes with sellers at \$22. Watsons have been placed and a o in a small demand at quotation. Electrics have changed hands at \$11½, Star Ferries at \$12.25, and China Providents at \$9.20 for cash and settlements.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

QUOTATIONS.		
[4:45, buyers]		
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	264 p. t. prem. =
China & Japan, prf.	25	100 al.
Do. ordinary	24	£1, sales
Do. deferred	21	5.5s.
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	28	20, buyers
Four. Shares...	21	20, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A...	21	10, na
Campbell, Moore & Co.	110	10, sales
China Prov. L. & M...	110	\$9.20, buyers
China Sugar	1100	\$181
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo.....	Tls. 100	Tls. 78, sellers
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 83
Laou Kung Mow ...	Tls. 100	Tls. 85
Soychee	Tls. 400	Tls. 400
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 55
Hongkong	\$100	\$4, sales
Dairy Farm	26	5
Fenwick & Co., Geo...	225	82, ex div. sales
Green Island Cement...	210	22, sellers
Do. New Issue	55	—
H. & C. Bakery	550	23
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	210	126
Hongkong Electric ...	210	11½, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways ...	1100	130, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	250	78, ex div. buyers
Hongkong Ice	225	112, sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G...	250	80, buyers
Hongkong Hope.....	250	70, ex div. sales
H. & W. Dock	2125	314, ex div. sales
Insurances—		
Canton.....	250	\$45, sellers
China Fire	220	82½, ex div. sel
China Traders'	225	63, sellers
Hongkong Fire	250	300, sellers
North-China	225	Tls. 123, sales
Straits	220	25
Union	250	230, sales
Yangtze	260	120, sellers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	250	78, buyers
Humphreys Estate...	210	9, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	230	20, buyers
West Point Building	240	28, sellers
Luzon Sugar	2100	252, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages.....	1 cs. 500	\$140
Gt. Estn. & C'donian	25	25
Jeihou	25	22, sellers
Queens Mines Ltd...	25c.	270, sellers
Oliver's Mines, A....	25	26, sellers
Do. B.....	23	24.75, sellers
Punjom	25	25, buyers
Do. Preference...	21	21.25, buyers
Raubs	14s. 10d.	260, sellers
New Amoy Dock	263	216
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila...	250	78, ex div.
China Mutual Pref.	210	29, 10s., buyers
Do. Ordinary	210	25, 10s., buyers
Do. Do.	20	23, buyers
Douglas Steamship...	250	28
H., Canton and M...	215	28½, buyers
Indo-China S. N. ...	210	267, sellers
Star Ferry	27½	21.25, sellers
Tchrau Planting Co. ...	25	25, sellers
Do.	22	23, sellers
United Asbestos	22	21.50, buyers
Do.	210	210, nominal
Wanchai Warehouse...	237½	237½
Watson & Co., A. S. ...	210	23½, sal. & sellers

J. Y. V. VERNON, Broker.

SHA GHAI, 13th March.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report).—A number of stocks have been dealt in, although the volume of business has not been large. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—But a small number of shares have changed hands at 275 per cent prem. for cash. There are sellers at the close. Bank of China and Japan.—Ordinary shares were placed at £1. with exchange 2s. 8d. Marine Insurance.—Yangtze Insurance shares were placed at \$120, Straits are offering in Hongkong, at \$5.50. Fire Insurance.—Hongkong's are obtainable at \$300 ex div., and Chinas at \$88. 0 in Hongkong. Shipping.—Hongkong, Canton & Macao Steamboat shares are offering in Hongkong at \$28. Indo-China S.N. shares were placed for the 31st current at Tls. 49.50 and for cash at Tls. 49. Cash shares are offering at Tls. 49. China Mutual S.N. shares are wanted. Sugars.—Perak Sugar Cultivation shares can be placed at Tls. 43. China Sugar Refining shares were sold for delivery on 30th June at \$190. Mining.—Punjom Mining Preference shares were done at \$1.30. Raub Australian Gold Mining shares were placed at \$61 and \$60. Docks, Wharves and Godowns.—Shares in S. C. Farham & Co. were sold at Tls. 180. Shanghai Engineering and Dock Preference shares were placed at Tls. 1.1. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares changed hands at Tls. 140 cash, and Tls. 141.50 and Tls. 142.50 for the 31st current. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment shares changed hands at Tls. 82.50. Industrial.—Major Brothers, Ltd.—Shares are wanted at Tls. 37.50. E-Wo Cotton S. & W. shares were placed at Tls. 76 to 80. International Cotton Mill shares were sold at Tls. 85 and 83 cash and Tls. 85 to 83.50 for the 31st, and Laou-Kung-Mow shares at Tls. 85 to 86.50 cash, and Tls. 86.50 for the 31st. Shanghai Eis shares changed hands at Tls. 83, and Shanghai Ice shares at Tls. 28. American Cigarette shares were sold at Tls. 60. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco shares changed hands at Tls. 69 and Tls. 68. 0 for the 31st current. Shanghai Langkat Tobacco shares were sold at Tls. 60 to Tls. 65 for Old, and Tls. 35 for New shares with Tls. 75 paid up. Shanghai Horse Bazaar shares were placed at Tls. 67.50, and Hall & Holz shares at Tls. 33. Loans.—Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf 6 per cent. Debentures changed hands at Tls. 100.50.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 17th March.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer	1/11½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/11½

ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand	2.46
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.49½

ON GERMANY.—

On demand	1.99½
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ON NEW YORK.—

Bank Bills, on demand	47½
Credits, 60 days' sight	48½

ON BOMBAY.—

Telegraphic Transfer	145½
Bank, on demand	146

ON CALCUTTA.—

Telegraphic Transfer	145½
Bank, on demand	146

ON SHANGHAI.—

Bank, at sight	73
Private, 30 days' sight	74

ON YOKOHAMA.—

On demand	4½ % pm.
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ON MANILA.—

On demand	1½ % pm.
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ON SINGAPORE.—

On demand	1 % pm.
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SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Ruying Rate... 10.13

GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael... 53.50

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 17th March.—The principal feature of the fortnight has been the increased demand at advancing rates, for tonnage to load at Saigon for this port; the demand still continues and present rate for small carriers, prompt loading, is 23 cents per picul.

with every prospect of a further rise owing to the scarcity of medium sized steamers, for large carriers 19½ cents to the rate.

From Bangkok to Hongkong, tonnage is wanted at 27½ cents inside and 22½ cents per picul outside the bar.

From Newchwang to Canton there are no offers to charter owing to the high price of produce at loading ports; first steamer (under monthly charter) has already left this to load, the port being expected to open about the 2th instant.

Tonnage is wanted to load Java to this at about former rates.

Coal freights Moji to Hongkong, \$2.40, to Singapore \$3.40, Mororan to Singapore \$4 per ton.

There is a demand for medium sized steamers on monthly hire.

Four vessels are disengaged in port registering 699 tons

The following are the settlements:—

Chusan—German steamer, 719 tons, sold for \$105.00.

Goucester City—British steamer, 1,409 tons, Otavo or Mororan to Singapore, \$4 per ton.

Indravelli—British steamer, 3,131 tons, Moji and/or Kuchinotzu to Singapore, one port \$3.10, two ports \$3.25 per ton.

Columbia—British steamer, 1,746 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2.40 per ton.

Telantos—German steamer, 1,812 tons, Amoy to Singapore (passengers), \$5.75 each.

Talce—German steamer, 939 tons, Hongay to Amoy, \$3.20 per ton.

Amigo—German steamer, 822 tons, Hongay to Saigon, \$2.25 per ton.

Bucephalus—British steamer, 1,192 tons, three ports north coast Java to Hongkong, 32½ cents per picul.

Kachidate Maru—Japanese steamer, 2,143 tons, Iloilo to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.

Kinai Maru—Japanese steamer, 1,300 tons, Bangkok to Hongkong, 26 and 21 cents per picul.

Chittagong—British steamer, 1,241 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul.

Deuteros—German steamer, 1,251 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 13½ cents per picul.

Taichow—British steamer, 862 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul.

Kongbeng—British steamer, 862 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul.

Nangatsu Maru Japanese steamer, 827 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul.

Bygdo—Norwegian steamer, 771 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 13½ cents per picul.

Daymar—Norwegian steamer, 921 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 16 cents per picul.

Marie Jensen—German steamer, 1,771 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 20 cents per picul.

Germania—German steamer, 1,775 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, \$8.075 in full.

Martha—German steamer, 1,580 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 22 cents per picul.

Telantos—German steamer, 1,812 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 22 cents per picul.

Tordenskjold—Norwegian steamer, 904 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 23 cents per picul.

Bygdo—Norwegian steamer, 771 tons, monthly, 8 months, \$5.50 per month.

Peiyang—German steamer, 1,036 tons, monthly, 9 months, \$5.80 per month.

Trym—Norwegian steamer, 710 tons, monthly, 5 months, \$6.00 per month.

Telantos—German steamer, 1,812 tons, monthly, 6 months, \$8.00 per month.

Talce—German steamer, 939 tons, monthly, 6 months, private terms.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—Bombay (str.), Menelaus (str.), Chingwo (str.), Parramatta (str.), Kanagawa Maru (str.).

For BREMEN.—Bayern (str.).

For MARSEILLES.—Caledonien (str.), Kanagawa Maru (str.).

For HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—Wittenberg (str.), Nurnberg (str.), Babelsberg (str.).

For SAN FRANCISCO.—Coptic (str.), Peking (str.), America Maru (str.), Queen Margaret (str.).

For VANCOUVER.—Empress of China (str.).

For VICTORIA, B.C., AND FACOMA.—Athenian (str.), Glenogle (str.).

For PORTLAND, O., Columbia (str.).

For SAN DIEGO.—Belgian King (str.).

For NEW YORK.—Moyuna (str.).

For AUSTRALIA.—Airlie (str.).

For STRAITS AND BOMBAY.—Disegno (str.).

For STRAITS AND CALCUTTA.—Gathering Apeur (str.).

For THURSDAY ISLAND.—Fata Maru (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

March—

ARRIVALS.

10. Yedo Maru, Japanese str., from Saigon.
11. Tailee, German str., from Manila.
11. Taiyuan, British str., from Melbourne.
11. Chittagong, British str., from Paracels.
11. Beumohr, British str., from Moji.
11. Foochow, British str., from Java.
11. Ebani, British str., from Canton.
11. Kenyon, British bark, from New York.
11. Peacock, British bark, from Weihaiwei.
11. Coptic, British str., from San Francisco.
11. Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
11. Iris, British barkentine, from Freemantle.
11. Teesart, German str., from Moji.
11. Peiyang, German str., from Chinkiang.
12. Brisk, British gunboat, from Singapore.
12. Ariake Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
12. Columbia, Amr. str., from Moji.
12. Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.
12. Glengarry, British str., from Shanghai.
12. Nurnberg, German str., from Hamburg.
12. Pronto, German str., from Tamsui.
12. Sagami Maru, Jap. str., from Shimonoseki.
12. St. Helens, British str., from Aroe B. y.
12. Kyoto Maru, Japanese str., from Saigon.
13. Hailan, French str., from Hoihow.
13. Loongmoon, German str., from Canton.
13. Wakasa Maru, Japanese str., from Kobe.
13. Kiangpak, Chinese str., from Canton.
13. Ningoot, Russian str., from Antwerp.
13. Arizona, Amr. str., from Manila.
14. Tategami Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
14. Whampoa, British str., from Canton.
14. Tientsin, British str., from Canton.
14. Hailoong, British str., from Coast Ports.
14. Catherine Apear, Brit. str., from Calcutta.
14. Devawongse, British str., from Bangkok.
14. Hiroshima Maru, Jap. str., from S'pore.
14. Hupeh, British str., from Java.
14. Independent, German str., from Bangkok.
14. Monadnock, U.S. monitor, from Manila.
14. Yarra, French str., from Marseilles.
14. Nanchang, British str., from Canton.
15. Airlie, British str., from Kobe.
15. Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
15. Fushun, Chinese str., from Canton.
15. Rohilla, British str., from Yokohama.
15. Tientsin, British str., from London.
15. Triumph, German str., from Pakhoi.
16. Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
16. Glenogle, British str., from Tacoma.
16. Taisang, British str., from Shanghai.
16. Pyrrhus, British str., from Liverpool.
16. Peiyang, German str., from Canton.
16. Parramatta, British str., from Shanghai.
16. Bengal, British str., from Bombay.
17. Foochow, British str., from Canton.
17. Michael Jensen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
17. Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
17. Germania, German str., from Hongay.
17. Riojun Moru, Japanese str., from Moji.
17. Chowfa, British str., from Bangkok.

March—

DEPARTURES.

11. Sydney, French str., for Europe.
11. Nanyang, German str., for Swatow.
11. Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., for Karatsu.
11. Loongmoon, German str., for Canton.
11. Fushun, Chinese str., for Canton.
11. Formosa, British str., for Amoy.
11. Nanchang, British str., for Canton.
11. Phra Nang, Brit. str., for Bangkok.
11. Kutsang, British str., for Calcutta.
11. Peshawur, British str., for Bombay.
11. Lennox, British str., for Portland, Or.
12. Fukui Maru, Jap. str., for Kutchinotsu.
12. Hanoi, French str., for Hoihow.
12. Keongwui, British str., for Huihow.
12. Peiyang, German str., for Canton.
12. Loyal, German str., for Hongay.
12. Thales, British str., for Swatow.
13. Ebani, British str., for Swatow.
13. Katsuyama Maru, Jap. str., for Saigon.
13. Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
13. Trieste, Austrian str., for Bombay.
14. Pronto, German str., for Swatow.
14. Ningoot, Russian str., for Port Arthur.
14. Ariake Maru, Jap. str., for Kutchinotsu.
14. Knivberg, German str., for Haiphong.
14. Kiangpak, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
14. City of Rio de Janeiro, American str., for San Francisco.
14. Salvadora, American str., for Amoy.

14. Loosok, British str., for Swatow.
14. Sullberg, German str., for Chefoo.
14. Trym, Norwegian str., for Tamsui.
14. Wakasa Maru, Jap. str., for London.
14. Yedo Maru, Jap. str., for Saigon.
15. Yarra, French str., for Shanghai.
15. Empress of Japan, Brit. str., for V'couver.
15. Kaiser, German flagship, for Swatow.
15. Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
15. Mongkut, British str., for Saigon.
15. Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
15. P. C. C. Kiao, British str., for Bangkok.
15. Tientsin, British str., for Takau.
15. Hailan, French str., for Pakhoi.
15. St. Helens, British str., for Swatow.
15. Hongkong, French str., for Ho-how.
15. Glengarry, British str., for London.
15. Whampoa, British str., for Shanghai.
15. Foochow, British str., for Canton.
15. Taiyuan, British str., for Australia.
16. Taifu, German str., for Yokohama.
16. Nanchang, British str., for Tientsin.
16. Fushun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
16. Nurnberg, German str., for Yokohama.
16. Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
16. Sagami Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
16. Hiroshima Maru, Jap. str., for Kobe.
16. Daphne, German str., for Nagasaki.
16. Tetartos, German str., for Amoy.
16. Esmeralda, British str., for Manila.
17. Tientsin, British str., for Shanghai.
17. Konoura Maru, Jap. str., for Kobe.
17. Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

- Per *Sydney*, from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Alford, Messrs. Seujie and Luithe, Mr. and Mrs. Jourdon, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Kellog, Mr. Ondaille, Mr. and Mrs. Faga, Mgr. Throstien, Messrs. Pilcher, LaCroix, Lewis, Revs. Marcel and Ponzi, Mr. Wallock, Mrs. Fumagalli, Messrs. Law, Rose, Thibaudier, Kaine, Gobet, Cennal, and Reade.
- Per *Pronto*, from Tamsui, &c., Mr. Heinoldt.
- Per *Sagami Maru*, from Shimonoseki, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Morse.
- Per *Glengarry*, from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Cardon and child.
- Per *Esmeralda*, from Manila, Messrs. Murray, W. L. Carrington, W. Wegelin, Jose Rooha, F. Casademnat, Jacobo Ascencion, L. Angeles and child, Mr. and Mrs. Antonio Barretto, Mr. and Mrs. Roxas, Mr. and Mrs. Tucker, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Dewey, Mr. and Mrs. Go Quiong-lo and child.
- Per *Coptic*, from San Francisco, &c., Rev. O. F. Wisner and family, Mrs. S. B. Blake, Messrs. M. R. Alexander, Li Yung Yew, Wu Chao Whin, Li Kwang Heig, Li Fok Hong, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. A. Bailton, Miss E. E. Katsch, Mr. and Mrs. F. Palmer, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Bonhote, Messrs. B. Roth and W. R. P. Free-land, Hon. A. E. Buck, Mrs. Buck, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Edwards, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Van Wyck, Miss Gertrude Van Wyck, Miss Edna Van Wyck, Sir Charles and Lady Payne, Dr. Paulun, Lieut. and Mrs. A. L. Key, and Mr. H. W. Hogg.
- Per *Hailoong*, from Coast Ports, Miss H. E. St. John, Mr. and Mrs. Goh Heah Huh, and 227 Chinese.
- Per *Catherine Apear*, from Calcutta, Mr. A. S. Cohen, Mr. & Mrs. Cronin, Miss Cronin, Mr. & Mrs. Judah, Mr. Sutherland, Mr. Johnston, Mr. & Mrs. Davidson, Rev. Forney and Mr. Smith.
- Per *Devawongse*, from Bangkok, Mr. and Mrs. Richards, and Mr. Cutchon.
- Per *Yarra*, for Hongkong from Marseilles, Messrs. M. Clavet and C. Teben; from Calcutta, Colonel Orpin, and Mr. Hunt; from Colombo, Messrs. B. J. Clyde, J. V. Jughaan, C. Hartmann, Col. and Mrs. Campbell Walker, and Mr. M. Schwartz; from Singapore, Mr. W. Boissevain, Mr. and Mrs. Hoyer, Capt. and Mrs. Strickland, Mrs. Vivian Dagmar and Troupe, Rev. O. Hunzon, Messrs. Strath, Poliakoff and child, Mr. Goldschoing, Miss Settmann, Messrs. Kloppe, Pedro Sanchez, and A. R. Abbas; from Saigon, Mr. and Mrs. Campano, Messrs. E. M. Marks, R. J. Irwing, and A. Tovenai, Col. and Mrs. Teillard d'Epe. For Shanghai from Marseilles, Mr. E. G. Dunn, Mr. and Mrs. Robyns de Seheidano, Messrs. H. Ballauf, Blase, and Mactavish; from Singapore, Mr. G. B. Wilson. For Nagasaki from Port Said, Mr. Sherbakoff;

from Singapore, Miss R. Weinstock and child. For Yokohama from Marseilles, Mr. J. P. Cannock, Mr. and Mrs. Itachikawa and infant; from Singapore, Messrs. Sighers, Haarth, and Shibuya; from Saigon, Mr. Leckelle.

Per *Haitan*, from Coast Ports, Mr. and Mrs. Walkinshaw and 211 Chinese.

Per *Rohilla*, from Yokohama, &c., Mrs. and Miss Monro, Mrs. G. D. Saunderson, Messrs. A. Nomi, O. Meyer, Juok Sam, Hong Yow, Miss Hung Won, Miss Hung Cun, Mrs. Cook Shee, Miss Chow Won, Master Chee Ki, Master Low Pon, Rev. A. P. Fuller, Messrs. W. A. Norman, Wiles, Jackson, and Fitzgerald.

DEPARTED.

Per *Sydney*, from Hongkong for Saigon, Messrs. Ong Ka Tiong and Borelly; for Singapore, Messrs. Hoskins, Ellis, J. D. Ross, Naphegyi, Tang Koon Chuk, Taeng, Revs. F. Auvé and P. Bouherest; for Colombo, Messrs. H. Dumaresq and J. Braggiotti; for Port Said, Mr. S. Goth; for Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Jeufraïn, Messrs. G. R. Stevens, J. Pasquier, and C. Tournaire.

Per *Lennox*, for Kobe, Mr. N. Blum; for Yokohama, Mr. O. M. Poole; for Portland, Mr. E. E. Whistler; for Boston, Mr. G. de Coligny.

Per *City of Rio de Janeiro*, for Shanghai, Mr. E. Ormeston, Miss Poate, and Miss McDonald; for Yokohama, Lieut. H. W. Bennett, Messrs. W. R. P. Fresland and J. Varvelly; for Honolulu, Messrs. Young Hie, Young Pin, and C. Koon Chee; for San Francisco, Dr. W. L. Adams, Mr. A. E. Durhey, Dr. Bedloe, Messrs. C. L. Jones, W. M. Mil, W. L. Carrington, and V. de Paul Solabas; for London, Messrs. T. Walker, Geo. Ehni, J. Von Diefenbach, and C. T. Mauke; for Chicago, Mrs. Ransome; for Seattle, Mr. A. E. Mueller.

Per *Wakasa Maru*, for Singapore, &c., Mrs. E. A. Bateman, Mrs. T. N. Cowan and child; Mrs. Duggan and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. May and child, Mr. and Mrs. J. Acheson and child, Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Cocker, Miss Cocker, Master Cocker and child, Mr. E. L. James, Miss Allen, Dr. Spencer and family, Dr. Katsuro, Master H. Best, and Mr. T. N. Cowan.

Per *Empress of Japan* for Shanghai, Dr. Paulan, Mrs. W. A. Fitton and child, Mr. and Mrs. Alford, Mrs. Ross Taylor and 2 children, Capt. Chapman, Messrs. J. W. Cumming, Bridges, Low To Yee, Low Shin Tso, Chee Chao How, Chu Yu Chee, and Hen Sam Po; for Nagasaki, Mr. T. Katooka, and Miss Osada; for Kobe, Miss L. Ogden; for Yokohama, Mrs. and Miss Aitken, Mrs. Smyth and child, Mr. and Mrs. Bathgate, Mrs. Moss, Messrs. A. J. McClure and E. J. Moss, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Tim; for Victoria, Miss A. Jones; for Vancouver, Miss E. R. Seidmore; for San Francisco, Mr. Tomey; for Montreal, Mr. J. C. R. Johnson; for New York, Mrs. Lancaster and child, Miss H. A. Dick, and Miss M. H. Bakewell; for Demerara, Mr. Ho Ahing; for Paris, Mr. P. Briffand; for Liverpool, Mr. and Mrs. J. Wood, Mr. and Mrs. R. Goodwin; for London, Genl. and Mrs. Hamilton, Capt. R. S. Webber, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Churton, Miss Lloyd, Misses Hartnoll (2), Mr. and Mrs. A. Hill, Mrs. and Miss Edward, Messrs. E. Powell, F. H. Ryland, C. H. Lyall, Hartnoll, W. T. J. Gun, W. H. Hutchison, R. W. Wilkinson, W. O. Cantley, D. Edward, S. Murray, and G. H. Sutherland; from Shanghai for Liverpool, Mr. G. B. Swann; for London, Captain G. A. Leinhaas. From Yokohama for London, Mr. and Mrs. T. Robertson, Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Saxton.

Per *Sungkiang*, for Manila, Messrs. R. E. Humphreys, J. M. Ferguson, J. B. Laughlin, R. F. Grey, P. Sanchez, J. Bettington, E. Carmelo, and Constanco, Mrs. Meisler, Mrs. Maum, Mrs. Grasse, Mrs. Marcoch, Messrs. Garcia, C. Perez, Simons, and Takahashi.

Per *Yarra*, for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Campos and 4 children, Messrs. W. Howard, P. Scangio, G. Marocchi, F. Xavier, and Rev. Beauplat; for Nagasaki, Messrs. S. B. Yagi and Graiffe; for Yokohama, Mr. M. Allix.

Per *Taiyuan*, for Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Kaelin and child, Mrs. Connor, Mr. E. S. Hicks, Miss Hicks, Miss Lake, Col. Dick, Messrs. J. Brown, A. H. Massey, F. Palmer, Leo Preg, B. F. Clyde, J. v. Ingham, C. H. Kuhn, and S. Hashin; for Sydney, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Eddy, Messrs. F. Poate, W. Farmer, and B. Wilson.

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